NEWS / A3
2 senior AFP generals opt for early retirement

SPORTS / A18
Django bags world 9 Ball crown in Qatar

METRO / A21
Mayoral vote recount in Manila OK'd

WORLD / A24
Oil slick spreads to all Gulf states

MOTORING / B2-1
Rainy day maintenance tips for drivers

Justice is surfed: SC taps Twitter, Facebook

By Dona Pazzibugan

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO SEND THE highest court of the land a "smiley" :-) or a "frown" :-(.

To provide real-time updates and draw instant feedback from the public, the Supreme Court has joined two popular social networking sites, Twitter and

A4/A5/B1 A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, July 7, 2010 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 209 P18

DepEd chief learns first lesson: Handling media

By Philip C. Tubeza

HE GOES BACK TO SCHOOL TODAY TO learn about Media 101.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro yesterday dismissed as a case of "first-day jitters" his outburst last week against the media over the sex education potboiler in public schools.

DEPED A11

Meralco rates up again

STOP 'BANG BANG,' TOO Activists head to Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near the Palace to demand justice for Fernando Baldomero, the first activist killed under President Aquino's new administration. The provincial coordinator of Bayan Muna in Aklan was shot dead on Monday by a motorcycle-riding man in front of his 12-year-old son. AMANDO DOROY

'Extrajudicial killings not my gov't policy'

By Christine O. Avendaño
in Manila
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
in Iloilo City

WITH THE MURDERS OF A FORMER broadcaster and a political activist occurring barely a week after he was sworn into office, President Aquino has made it clear that his administration has no policy of extrajudicial killings.

"[The President's family] being a victim of human rights [violations], he himself will not tolerate extrajudicial killings under his administration," Mr. Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday at a news briefing.

Lacierda shrugged off the suggestion that the killings were intentionally done to embarrass the new administration.

"We have to identify the causes of the killings. The investigation is on a case-to-case basis ... Whether there is an effort by some people to commit extrajudicial killings, that would be investigated," Lacierda said.

"Then and only then will we be able to determine whether there is a pattern of extrajudicial killings to embarrass the Aquino administra-

EXTRAJUDICIAL A10

Power firm blames IPPs for increase

By Amy R. Remo

EXPECT YOUR ELECTRICITY bills to go up again this month.

The country's biggest power distribution, Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), yesterday announced a "slight" increase in rates by 5.8 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in July due to a rise in generation charge to P5.6546 per kWh.

This means that a residential customer consuming 100 kWh a month will have to pay more by around P5.80. Those consuming 200 kWh will shoulder a higher increase of around P11.60.

Ivanna dela Peña, Meralco first vice president and utility economics head, explained that generation charges went up this month because the company's independent power producers imposed a 6-centavos per-kWh increase, from an average of P4.34 per kWh in May to P4.40 in June.

In April, amid soaring fuel costs, Meralco upped its charges by P1.20 per kWh, citing a rise in the cost of power it buys from suppliers. This meant an additional P120 for customers who used 100 kWh a month, and P360 for those who used 300 kWh.

Meralco, which has 4.7 million customers in 29 cities, including Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite, said the adjustment was due to a "significant rise in generation cost" at the

MERALCO A8

Palace backs Romulo on DFA extensions

By Christine O. Avendaño

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS coterminous, or coterminating for 21 political ambassadors of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Malacañang yesterday stood by the decision of Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to extend the stay for three months of those ambassadors in their posts despite protests by career diplomats in the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said Romulo did not commit anything illegal by his actions.

He said that aside from ensuring that there would be no disruption in the services of the country's embassies abroad, the replacements could not be made until they were approved

PALACE A8

PRACTICING WHAT HE PREACHES The sport utility vehicle, bearing President Aquino, along with the PSG vehicles, stops for a red light at the intersection of Quezon Boulevard and Arsenio Antonio in Quezon City on its way to Malacañang on Tuesday.

Traders' most watched: PBA chair heads BoC

By Gwen L. Lanao

BUSINESSMAN ANGELITO ALVAREZ was yesterday appointed by President Aquino commissioner of the Bureau of Customs, a fiscal agency whose performance is closely watched by the business community because of the problem of rampant smuggling.

Alvarez, 52, assumed the post that was initially intended for Guillermo Parayno Jr., a former customs and internal revenue commissioner. Sources said Parayno would instead be named finance undersecretary in charge of revenue generation.

Alvarez's work experience includes an early stint with SGV & Co., the country's largest auditing firm, of which Parayno was once the managing partner.

He was deemed the "acceptable candidate" after questions were raised about the potential conflict of interest

TRADERS' A6

Gotcha on TV! Binay, red-faced, says sorry

By Cynthia D. Balana

ALL EYES SEEMED TO BE ON THE COUNtry's No. 2 man ever since President Aquino, as part of his inaugural pledge to lead by example, ordered his cadres to strictly obey traffic rules.

And as Vice President Jejomar Binay apologized to the public yesterday after a TV footage showed his security convoy beating the red light in Quezon City the previous day.

"The Vice President apologized to all motorists who may have been inconvenienced last Monday, the Vice President reminded his security detail to follow traffic rules," according to Binay's statement released by his media officer, Joey Salgado.

Salgado said the head of Binay's security, Col. Ferdinand Pregimal, had also

GOTCHA! A10

Noy ally seeks to cut pork by half; no way, says GMA party mate

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A CONGRESSIONAL ALLY OF PRESIdent Aquino has called for a sharp cut in the priority development assistance fund (PDAF), also known as pork barrel, given to lawmakers to help the new administration cope with the the massive P340-billion budget deficit and avoid imposing new taxes.

"We have to sacrifice, we have to lead by example," Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III, a spokesperson of Mr. Aquino's Liberal Party (LP), said in proposing a reduction of 35 percent to 37 percent in the graft-ridden pork of representatives and senators.

This would translate to a drop in PDAF from P70 million to P50 million for representatives, and from P200 million to P130 million for senators.

The suggestion was quickly shot down by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, a candidate for Speaker of the Lakas-Kampi-Christian Muslim Democrats, describing it as "flawed, cosmetic, counterproductive, unjust and [would] reduce countrywide development."

The administration is facing the country's largest-ever deficit, but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has said this was not as bad since it only represented 4 percent of gross domestic product.

Tañada said the proposed cut represented the "soft" portion of the pork barrel, which includes infrastructure

HOT SEAT A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/42 SUPERLOTTO 6/49 SUPERTOTALO

Gov't to form two peace panels

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION IS FORMING two peace panels—one that will negotiate with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the other to talk to the Communist-led New People's Army (NPA), according to presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

Talking with reporters yesterday, Lacierda said the twin peace panels were discussed by President Aquino and peace adviser Teresita Deles in a meeting in Malacañang.

He said they were still looking for the right persons to head the panels, which would have five members each.

The rebel groups have been waging guerrilla war in the countryside for more than three decades.

Part of the work of the peace panels would be to review the implementation of past agreements, Lacierda said.

They will look at the current status and how to move forward, he said.

"We sincerely hope that we can forge a peace agreement within the term of President Aquino," Lacierda said.

But he said it does not mean an optimistic timetable. Lacierda quoted Deles as saying the timetable would "depend on the peace process itself."

He said Mr. Aquino's overall policy had four pillars: Good governance, delivery of basic social services, economic recovery and sustainable development for Mindanao, and security sector reforms.

The four pillars, he said, meant the government was concerned not just with the signing of a peace agreement with rebels but also with making sure that conflict areas are economically developed.

Lacierda said this was a more holistic or "macro approach" to the peace process.

Lacierda was asked whether peace talks with the NDF could still push through given that the rebel group had said talks would only proceed if and when the leadership group in exile is off the terror list of the United States and the European Union.

Lacierda appealed to groups not to put any obstruction to the new government's bid for peace.

"We're coming in with new ini tiative so, we'd like to...start with good faith," the presidential spokesperson said.

In Davao City, peace advocates said they would support the government's move to reopen peace talks with Moro revolutionary rebels....even if such a move entailed an amendment of the Constitution.

"It is high time for us to resolve the problem and rally behind a peace agreement that will have to be fully implemented," said Maryjean Arnaldo, executive director of the Mindanao People's Caucus, a non-government organization.

"As a people, we owe it to the next generation to deliver the peace now," she said. "If that requires amending the Constitution, we have to be prepared for that."

The MILF wants an expanded autonomous homeland where Islamic law can be imposed, particularly with regard to personal and family matters. With a report by Germelina A. Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao

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Free political prisoners, Noynoy urged

DAVAO CITY—A RAMPING LEADER of the Communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) challenged President Benigno Aquino III to follow the example of his mother and set all political prisoners free.

"Releasing all political prisoners as President Benigno Aquino's mother (the late Corazon Aquino) did would be a powerful goodwill gesture to show his seriousness in resuming peace talks," Luis Jalandoni, the chair of the NDFP negotiating panel, said in an e-mailed interview with the Inquirer.

Jalandoni, who is based in the Netherlands, said the government has the obligation to honor the agreements signed in the previous talks between the government and the NDFP, which included the Comprehensive Agreement for Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

"This requires the release of political prisoners and the indemnification of victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime," he said.

"[The President] ought to respond promptly and genuinely to the CARHRIHL...since his late mother, upon assuming power, released all political prisoners, and his late father, Benigno Aquino Jr., was a political prisoner," Jalandoni said.

The late President Corazon Aquino, swept to power by a "people power" revolt in 1986, granted amnesty to over 450 political prisoners, among them CPP founder Jose Maria Sison and NPA commander Bernabe "Dante" Buscayno.

Even her successor, Fidel Ramos, released more than 200 political prisoners in September 1992, Jalandoni said.

According to the human rights group Karapatan, there are currently 344 political prisoners in Philippine jails.

Remove terror tag

Jalandoni also said the Aquino administration should remove a major stumbling block to future negotiations with the NDFP if it is one value steps to remove the Communist-led rebel group from the terror list of the United States government, he said.

"We have no preconditions for resuming formal peace talks," Jalandoni said, but added, "We demand respect for and compliance with the agreements already signed. These are not conditions but obligations incurred through the agreements forged by both parties."

Peace Secretary Teresita Deles said the new administration is still trying to reopen talks between the government and the Communist rebels, who have waged a guerrilla war in the country for over 40 years.

Talks broke down in 2004 after the NDFP pressured inclusion in the negotiations for the US and Europe.

Inclusion in the list has made Moslem activists for MNLF exiles in Europe.

Jalandoni claimed it was the Arroyo administration that actually campaigned for the inclusion of the NDFP in the terror listing.

"The Arroyo regime also applauded the US and EU's unjust terrorist listing, and refused to join the NDFP in asserting the national sovereignty of the Filipino people and their inalienable right to judge on the just, honorable and fair situation in the Philippines," Jalandoni said. Germelina A. Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao

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Pinay held in Indonesia

DAVAO CITY—A Filipino environmental activist was detained in Indonesia after joining a training with 13 other members of international nongovernment organizations in the state of West Java in Indonesia.

Jose Maria Reinato, 45, is the team leader of the Davao Regional Office of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan or LRC.

As e-mail sent to the Inquirer by Jody Pelletier, executive director of LRC, said Reinato and the 13 other activists were arrested Monday while they were conducting a press conference. Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

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EARLY RETIREMENT

2 key generals quit

By Marlon Ramos

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines' second-in-command and his top spy have opted to retire early from the service amid rumors of another looming disconnect within the military.

Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta, AFP spokesperson, yesterday confirmed that AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benito Ordoño had expedited his retirement to leave the service within the week, or five months before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Dec. 6.

Mabanta said Brig. Gen. Romeo Pronera, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP), had also asked the military leadership to allow him to retire within the month.

The decision of Ordoño and Pronera triggered rumors that several senior military officials were dismayed over the way President Aquino and his military advisers are erasing some of their colleagues.

There has been talk that members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1978 and other AFP officials identified with former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would be "taxed out" under Mr. Aquino's administration.

Sources at Camp Aguinaldo said members of PMA Class 1977 and 1979 would assume the vital posts given to AFP officers who benefited during the incumbency of Arroyo.

Mabanta, however, quickly refuted such insinuations of demobilization within the AFP, saying Ordoño and Pronera had their own reasons for leaving the service ahead of their scheduled retirement.

According to the military spokesperson, the AFP "is not eating our anybody."

"There's no roiling out of military officials. There will be no dismissals or postures," Mabanta told the Inquirer.

If ever there would be reorganization within the AFP, Mabanta said the placement of officers "would be lateral or vertical movements only."

"No one will be demoted just because they belong to a certain class of the PMA," he stressed.

"A changing in the position is forthcoming. Since it started with the top, this will cascade all the way down," Mabanta said, referring to the appointment of Lt. Gen. Eduardo David as AFP chief of staff last week.

A member of PMA Class 1977, Ordoño served as acting AFP chief of staff for a week after then AFP Chief Gen. Delfin Bangit decided to bow out of service early on June 22 following Mr. Aquino's pronouncement that he will not retain Bangit.

Pronera, on the other hand, is Bangit's mistah (classmate) from PMA Class 1978, which made Arroyo an honorary member.

Both Pronera and Bangit served as chief of the Presidential Security Group during the incumbency of Arroyo.

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RH bill rises from the dead

By Leila B. Salaverria

QUEZON REP. JANETTE GARIN HAS FILED another version of the Reproductive Health (RH) bill that includes mandated government care for those with HIV and AIDS, as well as those suffering from complications from abortion.

Garin's bill comes a few days after Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman refiled the controversial bill, which calls for government promotion of contraception and sex education despite objections from the Roman Catholic Church.

The bill failed to get final approval in the previous Congress.

Garin said the new version includes provisions on hospital care because it has been proposed that cases involving those complications of STD-AIDS and abortion are referred treatment by some private hospitals.

"While nothing in this act changes the law on abortion, the governmental shall ensure that all women needing care for post-abortion complications shall be treated and counseled in a humane, nonjudgmental and compassionate manner," the bill states.

Garin, in a phone interview, said the provision aims to make sure that those who are suffering from the ill effects of illegal abortion receive proper medical attention. It has been the practice of some private hospitals to turn away patients who they know had induced abortion, she said.

Mandatory medical attention

"The point is there is a life involved. It's not for the hospital to judge them. A true measure of medical attention will entitle the child usually happens is that they pass on the patient to another hospital," she said.

Medical attention for such patients should be mandatory, she stressed.

"Even if we say that the patient has denied, it's not for the hospital to say that she could not be treated," she added.

As for RH education, the bill states it should include such topics such as self-protection against discrimination, sexual violence, abuse and teen pregnancy, fertility awareness, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS, family planning methods, hazards of abortion, and responsible parenthood.

The bill also states that the state will promote, without bias, all modern methods of family planning, and that all accredited health facilities shall provide the full range of these methods. Philhealth insurance or government financial assistance should cover these services, it adds.

"All services and life-threatening reproductive health conditions such as HIV and AIDS, breast and reproductive tract cancers, and obstetric complications shall be given the maximum benefits as provided by Philhealth programs," it says.

Taxman to go after celebs

CELEBRITIES ARE TO BE LEASED ON BY internal revenue officials who said yesterday they will begin targeting stars as part of a new crackdown on tax evaders.

Although the campaign will cover other high-earners, there will be a special focus on celebrities to set an example to the showbiz crazed public.

"For celebrities, it's easier (to check) if they are reporting (earnings) or not. You just watch the TV, look at billboards or the magazines," tax commissioner Kim Henares said in an interview with ABS-CBN television.

A staffer from Henares' office told AFP they would focus on "those in the media who are earning quite a big amount." "They will be used as examples to highlight the activities (the bureau of internal Revenue is) undertaking in this area," said the staffer who asked not to be identified.

The details of the campaign are still being shredded out as part of a wider effort to clamp down on rampant tax evasion, said aides of Henares.

President Aquino, who took office on June 30, has said the government will control its ballooning deficit with improved collections rather than resorting to new taxes. AFP

New format for bar exams

By Dona Pazolygon

THE SUPREME COURT MAY REFORMAT next year's bar examinations by dividing the exams into two parts: A multiple choice test and the usual essay format, a court spokesperson said yesterday.

"It's one bar examinees that (now formats) for this year's exams," explained Court Administrator Midas Marquez.

"While this is still being considered and up for approval by the Supreme Court en banc, there's a strong indication this will be approved," he added.

He said Associate Justice Roberto Abad, who will chair the 2011 Bar Committee, proposed the new format after consulting with deans from various law schools.

Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales will chair the 2010 Bar Committee.

"This is a departure from our traditional bar exams where, since time immemorial, it's always been essay type," Marquez explained.

He said the multiple choice part of the exam will focus on codal provisions. Apparently, randomness and law deans realized that the essay exam does not adequately test the prospective lawyers' knowledge on specific provisions of various laws.

"In an essay type exam, it may be difficult for examiners to determine if the examinee really knows his codal provisions. In a multiple choice exam, there are no ifs and buts. It's either you know it or not," Marquez said.

Although bar exams are generally of the essay type, in recent years the bar examiners have thrown in some multiple choice questions.

Hence the current batch of fourth year law students will be affected by the new bar rule, Marquez said. Abad made the proposal early so that law schools can prepare their students for next year's bar exams.

The bar exams are usually held in the first Sundays of September.

Election manual audit to end soon

By Tara Quimundo

THE INTER-AGENCY PANEL CONDUCTing a random manual audit of last May's automated election results is set to close this week with initial results attributing discrepancies to human error, the panel chair said yesterday.

Henrieta de Villa, head of the audit's technical working group, said yesterday that she will close the audit within the week as the process had gone on long enough. The panel started validating results from selected polling precincts one month ago, shortly after the May 10 polls.

"Many of the discrepancies were caused by the manual audit. We noted mistakes in the latter (one by one count of votes). The discrepancies were really because of human error," De Villa said by phone.

The audit, conducted through a collaboration of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), seeks to determine the accuracy of the automated count by comparing it with manually counted results from some 1,145 precincts nationwide.

Dr. De Villa said the validators will likely choose ballots from all selected precincts could be validated in weeks already checked making it a big enough sample. She is set to go to the Comelec today to review the process after a week's use for an emergency appropriation.

"Maybe 1,092 is enough instead of us doing the audit forever," De Villa said.

She said errors were mostly problems in the manual count, among them the incorrect consolidation of figures and counting votes from slightly shaded ovals as ballots—votes that voting machines discard.

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COMMEMORATIVE Ginoo Jumbo, a teller at the post office in Manila, shows members of the media the commemorative envelope of President Aquino with a stamp of his late mother, former President Corazon Aquino. The 3,000 limited edition envelope were sold to the public at P15 each. —NIKKO DIZON

Traders' most watched: New BoC chief

From page A1

should Purugan be appointed as customs commissioner, according to a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Purugan's critics have raised his being a shareholder in E-Konek, another firm owned by Lina that holds a contract for information technology services with the customs bureau.

But Purugan considered that he owned only a "nominal" share in E-Konek, a standard practice to allow company presidents to be named to the board of directors.

He also pointed out that E-Konek was only a subcontractor of Unisys Inc., which holds the parent contract with the customs bureau.

With his new appointment, Alvarez quit as chair of the Philippine Basketball Association and as manager of the basketball team it fi.

Asi21 is the trade name of the cargo handling firm Air Freight 2000 Inc., the former local franchisee of the US-based Federal Express. The company is owned by Ines Lina, himself a former customs commissioner.

'A good man'

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, who swore in Alvarez yesterday morning, confirmed his appointment in a text message to the Inquirer.

Mr. Aquino's spokesperson Ricardo Saludo initially could not confirm Alvarez's appointment, but was able to do so after speaking with Purisima.

As undersecretary for revenue generation, Purugan will oversee the operations of both the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which is now headed by his protégé Kim Jacinto-Henares.

Also returning to the Finance department as undersecretary is John Sevilla, who served as finance undersecretary for privatization from 2006 to 2007.

Purugan's critics are cognizant of Aquino Alvarez's appointment to the customs bureau as well, given that the latter's links with E-Konek and Web frontline, also owned by Lina, predate his candidacy.

But Ramon Jesus Jr., a former chief of the Air force and a retired major general who served as customs commissioner under Marcos and Estrada administrations, said of Alvarez: "He is a good man, and I think his work experience in the past will serve him well in his new position."

CPA

Alvarez is a certified public accountant with a degree from Far Eastern University.

He spent two decades with the Lina Group of Companies and also served as accounting manager of Advanced Micro Devices, now Amkor Anam, one of the biggest semiconductor companies in the country.

He and his wife Maria Vilma have four sons and two daughters.

Jacinto was first appointed customs commissioner by President Joseph Estrada in May 1998 (not 1997), but held the post for nine years.

He was assigned to the same position by President Joseph Estrada in January 2000, but he resigned three months later for health reasons.

He was, however, recalled by Estrada as senior advisor for revenue enhancement at the finance department. —*With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Inquirer Research*

ANGELITO ALVAREZ: The "accepted candidate"

GUILLERMO PARAYNO JR.: Finance undersecretary for revenue generation

Noy ally seeks to cut pork by half; no way, says GMA party mate

From page A1

and building projects such as roads and school facilities.

Tolledo said he was not pushing for the pork barrel to be totally scrapped, but if maintaining it would help cut down on spending, he said he would support it.

"If we're all here for the country, and Pnoy(-Aquino) is trying to lead by example and save a billion of this kind of government, then we should be trying to do the same," Tolledo said.

P10 billion in savings

Lagman said the reduction would only result in a "meager savings" of P10 billion for the government and a "grave reduction" in the government's social projects, such as scholarships, medical assistance, livelihood programs, electricity expansion and water connections.

He defended the fund allocation, noting that it had been upheld as valid and constitutional by the Supreme Court and that legislators merely identify the beneficiary projects without handling the money themselves.

"While the PDAF has been suspected to be prone to corruption, no legislator has been convicted. The jurisprudence is strict enough to require strict monitoring of PDAF projects and ensure legislators must be prosecuted and convicted, if warranted," Lagman said.

"The problem must be addressed, but the lifeline for development and poverty alleviation must not be sacrificed," he added.

All right in 2004, 2005

Tolledo struggled off Lagman's arguments.

"If it was all right for them to reduce their pork barrel in 2004 and 2005 while imposing new taxes, how come it is not all right to reduce the pork barrel now when our government will not impose new taxes and is achieving a huge budget deficit of their own making?" he said.

During the presidential campaign, Mr. Aquino declared that he was not in favor of abolishing the pork barrel because he found it beneficial, especially to his congressional districts when he was the representative of the old Second District of Tarlac province.

Tolledo said he had not broached the idea of a reduced pork barrel to Mr. Aquino or his party mates, but he hoped the latter would back it.

He said his fellow lawmakers might be receptive to the idea if informed of the need for the country's financial reforms.

TAÑADA: We have to lead by example.

LAGMAN: Flawed, unjust

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Whereas, Dr. Enrique T. Ona has been the Executive Director of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) for the past 10 years. The Institute is the first ISO-accredited government hospital. It is now considered the mecca of transplantation in the Philippines and one of the top performers of kidney transplants in the world. It is likewise the center for the diagnosis and treatment of renal and urologic diseases in the country.

Whereas, Dr. Ona was the Past President of the Philippine College of Surgeons, and the founding President of the Transplantation Society of the Philippines, The Philippine Society for Vascular Surgery and the Philippine Society for Transplant Surgeons. He has assumed numerous positions in the academe, at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, and in international scientific societies such as the Asian Society of Transplantation, and the Philippine Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

Whereas, Dr. Ona has been at the forefront in formulating key pieces of legislation that paved the way for organ transplantation from deceased (brain-dead) donors, to become an available life-saving treatment for patients with end-stage organ disease. He was instrumental in passing Republic Act 7170, otherwise known as the Organ Donation Act of 1991. He continues to lead in the development of various national policies on organ donation and transplantation.

Whereas, from the beginnings of his practice as a surgeon, Dr. Ona recognized the importance of research in healthy policy development in the Philippines. He has successfully created an environment conducive to scientific research. He established the institutional review Board at the NKTI to ensure that research methodology of scientific work is of highest quality.

Whereas, Dr. Ona was recently given the 2010 ***Outstanding Health Research Award*** by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) together with the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS). This award is given to encourage researchers in the sensitive to the scientific and technological requirements of the health delivery system and towards those whose research efforts are relevant to prevalent health problems.

Whereas, the NKTI renders service to all Filipinos, both private and charity patients.

Whereas, in 2009 alone, the Institute was able to help 22,350 charity (service) patients, 90% of whom have a family income of less than P10,000 per month. Dr. Ona continuously responds to the needs of our less fortunate countrymen, offering to them the best services that a world-class hospital can offer, at an affordable cost

Whereas, the Renal Disease Control Program (REDCOP) is the public health arm of the Institute. The REDCOP continues to lead nationwide activities in advocacy by conducting regular lay fora and involving allied healthcare workers down to the grassroots level, on kidney disease prevention and treatment.

Whereas, the newly elected President of the Republic of the Philippines , Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, appointed Dr. Enrique T. Ona as the Secretary of the Department of Health on June 29, 2010.

Whereas, Dr. Enrique T. Ona is without doubt, highly qualified to respond to the nation's healthcare concerns as a compliant physician. At the helm of the Department of Health, he will be able to implement the healthcare agenda of our newly-elected President.

Be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Board of Directors of the *Transplantation Society of the Philippines* welcomes this appointment, and gives its full support to the new Health Secretary.

Signed this 3rd of July, 2010

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Corrections

IN THE JULY 1 ISSUE, an article on Page A6—"Despite Noynoy rush, Concepcion downcrop"—indicated that Supreme Court Associate Justices Antonio Carpio, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Arturo Brion, Mariano del Castillo, Roberto Abad, Jose Mena and Jose Melchora were among those who ruled in favor of Renato Corona's appointment as Chief Justice. What the Supreme Court ruled in April was that then President Macapagal-Arroyo may appoint the successor of then Chief Justice Reynato Puno. Corona was appointed Chief Justice in May. Carpio inhibited himself from the next proceedings.

• • •

IN THE JULY 2 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Bring the slogan, gun cabinet, gets P1 for effect"—misspelled the name of President Aquino's girlfriend. His girlfriend's name is Shalani Soledad—not Soledad Shalani.

• • •

IN THE SAME ISSUE, Raul Pangalangan's "Passion for Reason" column on Page A14 of the Opinion section—"An Inaugural Address in Filipino"—misnamed the prize where opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. returned to the Philippines from the United States. Aquino came back in 1983...not 1986.

• • •

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an Arroyo the Nation article—"Glass Arroyo ally admits fewer yards under new President"—misspelled the surname of a former President. The ex-President's name is Gloria Macapagal—not Macapagal...Arroyo.

• • •

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an Arroyo the Nation story—"Bomb in Abra, clue elsewhere during inaugural"—misnamed that former Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. served as commander of the Presidential Security Group during the time of former President Corazon Aquino. Ebdane never became a PSG commander.

• • •

IN THE JULY 3 ISSUE, a Arroyo/ Health headline on Page B2-4—"Risk of having prostate cancer can now be reduced"—misspelled the name of a disease. The disease is prostate—not prostrate...cancer.

• • •

IN THE JULY 4 ISSUE, a front-page article—"In his own words: Why they're Aquino's Oscars"—mistakenly quoted President Aquino as saying Education Secretary Armin Luistro is from the ranks de Manila University. While Luistro has a master's degree from Ateneo, Mr. Aquino's original statement was: "Coming from (Ateneo de Manila University), I think it already speaks highly of the qualifications of Brother Armin. [who is former president of De La Salle University] that I begged him to join the Cabinet."

• • •

IN THE JULY 5 ISSUE, a front-page sidebar—"Serena Williams wins 5th Wimbledon crown"—misstated the number of Wimbledon titles Serena Williams has won. Williams now has four—not five—Wimbledon titles.

• • •

IN THE JULY 6 ISSUE, a story on Page A8—"Passengers irked over Cebu Pacific flight delays"—misnamed the surname of a disgruntled Cebu Pacific passenger. The passenger's name is Rick Ramos...not Reyes.

• • •

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Inq Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Maxwell Drive, Makati City (for Sms, MO or MMS for e-mail address: dayfeed@inquirer.com.ph.

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The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, July 7, 2010
14th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
Gospel: Mt 10:1-7

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon, the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, the man who would betray him. Jesus sent these twelve on mission with the instruction: "Go not into pagan territory and do not enter a Samaritan town. Go instead to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. As you proclaim the message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'"

Commentary:

"Go and preach."

St. Francis of Assisi said once, "Preach the gospel. If necessary, use words."

The fullness of the gospel depends on each of us.

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NEW REVENUE CHIEF. BIR Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and outgoing BIR Commissioner Joel C. Tan Torres pass with the BIR banner during the turnover rites. Henares is now vice chairman of the BIR, having worked in the revenue service from August 2002 to November 2005.

FROM CABINET TO CHIA. Outgoing Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral formally turns over the Department of Health's Internal Grave Health Secretary Enrique Ona during Monday's reception at the DOH office in Manila.

Meralco rates up again; power firm blames IPPs for hike

From page A1

wholesale electricity spot market (WESM).

At the time, Meralco, Manila and other parts of Luzon were suffering from scheduled brownouts due to a power supply shortfall, which stemmed from the shutdown and low-generating capacities of several power plants in Luzon, and fuel supply problems.

Higher electricity bills, coupled with power outages, drew the ire of most customers, who complained of paying double for the same amount of electricity they consumed in the previous billing month. An online protest movement was mounted on the social networking site Facebook.

Following the complaints, Meralco announced in May a reduction of as much as P1.25 per kWh, citing an "unavoidable reduction" in the prices of power it buys from suppliers. It said the price of electricity purchased from the WESM dropped by P3.00 per kWh, while cost of power derived from IPPs also dropped by P1.24 per kWh.

IPPs, again

Meralco derives power from three IPPs—the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo natural gas plants, both owned by Lopez-led First Gen Corp., and from Quezon Power Ltd.

The IPPs, according to Delia Peña, were actually Meralco's cheapest source of power last month as the effective cost of power from these two Batangas power corp. charged was higher at P4.99 per kWh, while that of the WESM stood at P3.98 in June.

The utility is still hoping that the onset of the rainy season will usher in lower rates once the next few months. Typically, power rates decline during this period and increase during summer.

"The start of Napocor's net season rates this July should provide a tempering effect in the generation charges next month," said Jay Zaldivarraga, Meralco external communications manager.

"Hopefully, the incoming rainy season will bring rains sufficient to improve the capabilities of many of the hydro plants which, in turn, can potentially lead to the easing of prices in the (next few months)."

Revenue-neutral

Zaldivarraga reiterated that any changes in the generation charge was "revenue neutral," which means that Meralco did not earn from it.

"The generation charge can move from month to month based on many factors beyond the control of the power players and WESM prices, among others. Should there be adjustments in the generation charge, it is not there to collect these changes in the customers' bills, such as the month's reduction," Zaldivarraga said.

Earlier, Meralco had said that the generation rate, which accounts for 56-60 percent of a customer's electric bill, went down by six percent because of lower supplied and added nothing to its income.

"Meralco does not add any markup to the cost of electricity purchased from these electricity suppliers whether it is an upward or downward adjustment," Zaldivarraga said.

Meralco had assumed of a rate increase as early as March, saying consumers "may have to brace for much higher electricity prices" because of increases in power cost. In February, the generation charge was already higher by P3.01 per kWh compared to that in January.

In January Meralco reasoned it suspended the implementation of an increase in its charges, pending a resolution sought by Meralco Utilities, which questioned the decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission allowing the firm to increase its distribution, supply and metering charges by an average of 26.9 centavos per kWh starting Jan. 1, 2010. — *With a report from Karlo Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

Palace backs Romulo on ambassadors' extensions

From page A1

by the Commission on Appointments.

Natural order of things

"Congress is still out on that one when Secretary Romulo and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa thought of establishing the duty of the political ambassadors," Lacierda said at a press briefing.

"In the natural order of things, after the expiration of three months, which is September 30, if none have utilized (offer or resigned, then) we will have to deal with that," Romulo said yesterday in a television interview.

Romulo said that during the first Cabinet meeting last week, Mr. Aquino directed him "to be responsive to the needs of overseas workers."

"That's part of his programs, education and health," he told ABC.

A case for incompetence

A group of career diplomats has announced its intention to file a case against Romulo on the grounds that President Aquino should appoint people and not extend the appointment of his predecessor, Arroyo.

ROMULO: Natural order of things

Arroyo stepped aside on June 30.

The 100 diplomats have also issued a white paper protesting the extension of Romulo. It said Romulo had been an incompetent foreign secretary and did not meet the criteria for being included among the "best and the brightest" of the President's official family.

They said Romulo, who had served for six years as Arroyo's foreign secretary, had undoubtedly lobbied to remain in his post.

Shut up

Ambassador Vidal Quiwod, a former chief of the Philippine National Police in the Soldiers of Cagayan Region, described Romulo's decision to remain in the Cabinet as "unethical and unwept and told the diplomats in the home office to shut up.

"Whatever the decision of our higher authorities, we should respect them," Quiwod, who left home from his post in Jakarta to undergo a medical procedure in Manila, told reporters.

"If they create that situation, it would be better if they just keep that to themselves," he added.

Lacierda said that Romulo had already said that the extension of the stay of political ambassadors had become a point of the previous administration.

"So let's wait and see. Sec. Ric Romulo is a man of consensus and let's leave secretary of foreign affairs for some time and he would be able to answer these legal issues in the proper forum," he said.

With reports from Marlon Ramos and Cynthia D. Balana

Justice is surfed: Supreme Court taps Twitter, Facebook

From page A1

Facebook.

A brainchild of recently appointed Chief Justice Renato Corona, the move was meant to bring "down to the people" an institution widely seen as the final custodian of all the branches of government.

The two accounts—Twitter (@SupremeCourtPH) and Facebook account Supreme Court of the Philippines—were opened simultaneously on Monday.

Court Administrator and spokesperson Midas Marquez said that aside from the decisions and resolutions, the tribunal can give regular updates on certain court decisions, programs and other official activities of the justices.

CORONA: "Closer to the people"

Feedback

At the same time, the high court has also opened itself to public comments, feedback and even complaints that can be searched through these accounts.

The Supreme Court already has an existing website—sc.judiciary.gov.ph—where it mainly uploads decisions, press releases and speeches delivered by the Chief Justice.

Marquez said the addition of the Twitter and Facebook accounts was part of the high court's "public service."

"It's to bring the court closer to the people and give them relevant news updates on decisions, programs and projects," he said.

And when it comes to criticisms and complaints, "of course, everyone's welcome," he said. "They're free to do what they want to do. We take everything constructively."

Copies for Corona

But Marquez said the court didn't have to reply to everything it received online.

Marquez said Corona—who doesn't have a personal Twitter account—would be given a copy of the tweets and Facebook comments, and may even respond to them "maybe during his free time."

"If he cannot check them personally, we'll be furnishing him with hard copies," Marquez said. "This is his office."

Through its initial tweets on Tuesday the Supreme Court announced that Corona would lead the judiciary in the special "End Mass" to be celebrated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales at Manila Cathedral on July 7.

It also tweeted the title of its news release on Tuesday vacating upholding the election of Abraham Mitra as Palawan governor.

Marquez denied that the court leaned to Twitter and Facebook to cushion the controversies surrounding the Concepcion-led court. "What controversies? I don't think the controversies were taken into account," he said.

Media blitz

Shortly after his appointment, Corona went on an unprecedented media blitz by granting sit-down interviews on TV and radio to defend his selection—widely denounced as a midnight appointment—by then President Macapagal-Arroyo in her final weeks in office.

Arroyo picked Corona on May 17 to succeed the retiring Reynato Puno, even as critics argued that the constitutional ban on presidential appointments had already taken effect March 10 or two months before the May elections.

His appointment came after the Supreme Court overturned a 1998 decision ruling that an outgoing President can appoint half of justices in the judiciary two months before the election until the end of his term.

Prevalence

The justices voted 9-1, with five other justices, including Corona, abstaining or opting the vote was premature.

To signify his disagreement with the Supreme Court decision, President Aquino chose to be sworn into office on June 30, not by Corona, but by Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales.

Corona will preside over the Supreme Court for the next eight years, since he will retire on Oct. 15, 2018, when he turns 70. With a report from WPP

HOSPITAL DETENTION

Former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. in black jacket, rides in a car with security escorts as he is taken to the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City on Monday for treatment of a skin disorder. Ampatuan Sr., the clan's patriarch, his three sons and a brother, are currently detained in Manila while awaiting trial for the massacre of 57 people, including 32 media workers, in November 2009.

JULY 1-11

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THE BUZZWORDS Protesters displaying placards that read "Stop Sirens, Stop Killings" hold a rally near Malacañang on Tuesday to demand justice for Buenaventura, a supporter killed in Bayan Muna, who was killed in Iloilo on Monday. KIMBERLY MOLINA

'Extrajudicial killings not my policy'

From page A1

men, five generals, however, they say our policy is not to kill nor tolerate extrajudicial killings," he said.

"We do not tolerate that—that's plain and simple," Lacierda quoted Mr. Aquino...release four ladies, Gringo, "Nicoy" Aquino is now serving three decades in jail and held in isolation by the detainee Professional Maceda...as seeing.

He said Mr. Aquino had ordered authorities to look into the rare murders, and that Philippine National Police Director General Ronio Mercado had suggested "a proactive way" of dealing with rampaging, dead killings.

On July 3, former radio broadcaster Jose Dagohoy was shot and killed by an unidentified man in his backyard in Tabuk, Kalinga. Two days later, Bernardo Baldonado, a town councilor and provincial coordinator of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna's cause, also died by an assailant in front of his son in Kalibo, Aklan.

Told that Bayan Muna members had held a rally pointing to Mendiola to protest the killing of Baldonado, Lacierda made the assurance that the government would look into the case.

"We're just asking for forbearance. All these problems will be dealt with," he said, reiterating that the Aquino administration would "not tolerate any extra-judicial killings" because these were "against our belief."

Taunting Aquino

Liberal Party stalwart Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada said the resignation of Baldonado's political affiliation, the Aquino administration would act on the killings of activists and media practitioners.

Tañada also said the mass murals of the new killings seemed to be taunting the new administration.

"Of course, we condemn the killings. They become a challenge now to the administration because [Mr. Aquino] has just assumed office and there are serious issues being [a political] will on issues like this," Tañada said, adding:

"This would be really a test."

Tañada said the new President would not turn a blind eye on the killings.

He said this Aquino's appointment of Leila de Lima as justice secretary was a signal that he would not take extrajudicial killings lightly.

Task Force Baldomero

In a news conference in Camp Crame, the new PNP spokesperson, Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr., assured Baldomero's family and colleagues that police were doing everything to solve the case.

Cruz said the Aklan police had formed Task Force Baldomero to gather statements from Baldomero's 12-year-old son and other possible witnesses.

"We are doing a scientific investigation. We are conducting interviews with witnesses. We are trying to come up with artist's sketches of the gunman," Cruz said.

He said police investigators were coordinating with Baldomero's family. "The PNP will give them the necessary protection they want," he said.

Cruz said the police were looking at local politics as the motive of the killing, noting the supposed political rivalry among Baldomero and others who ran for the town council seat in Lezo, Aklan.

Asked if there was a need for the President to issue a congressional order to put an end to the killings of leftist activists, Cruz replied in the negative.

"No less than our PNP chief, Director General Ricardo Marquez, proposed the creation of a multi-sectoral group to look into this 'phenomenon,'" he said.

In an interview with reporters on Monday, Marquez said the multisectoral committee would not only work for the resolution of extrajudicial killings but also study root causes and suggest remedies.

Cruz said what Marquez wanted was "effective measures to prevent attacks against vulnerable sectors, like the media and activists' groups."

"We also have to continue to intensify our operations to stop lawless elements from carrying out these criminal incidents," he said.

In mourning

Red, black and yellow ribbons bedecked the town plaza and other areas in Lezo, Aklan, as locals in Baldomero's honor of the capitol town of Kalibo, as residents mourned and condemned the killing of Baldomero.

Town officials, municipal employees and residents led by Lezo Mayor Victor Ferreras this yesterday accompanied Baldomero's remains from a mortuary in Numancia town to the family's ancestral residence in Barangay Sta. Cruz Ilaya in Lezo.

"We are in grief and we are calling for justice," Fernandez told the lessons in Emile Gaylay telephone.

Fernandez said Baldomero was respected and well-liked by his townmates.

The governor added that the municipal council was preparing to pass a resolution calling on authorities to swiftly solve the case and put the perpetrators behind bars.

Baldomero, 63, was the provincial coordinator of the Liberal Party in Leyte. He was under the party and was endorsed to a second term as councilor in May 13.

The party's chapter in Aklan called on the national government to "put the perpetrator/s behind bars as soon as possible."

Speaking on local radio, former Akbayan Rep. Allen Quimpo, the Liberal Party's provincial chair, said he had asked party leaders to help resolve the case.

Top priority

At a press conference in Iloilo City, Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, the police's regional director of the Western Visayas police, said Verzosa had directed him to make the resolution of Baldomero's killing top priority.

"We assure the family that we will do our best to get to the bottom of this case and they can be assured for the killing," he said.

Pagdilao has ordered the creation of Task Force Baldomero headed by the Aklan police director, Senior Supt. Ephraim Rimpas.

He said that while investigators were looking into a previous grenade attack on Baldomero, it was "still premature to pinpoint a motive of the killing."

Two motorcycle-riding men lobbed two grenades at Baldomero's ancestral house in Lezo on March 19. No one was injured and Baldomero was not in the house during the attack.

Death squads

Militant groups had earlier raised the suspicion that "death squads" composed or backed by military or paramilitary men were behind the killing of Baldomero and four others of activists killed during the Aquino administration.

But the officials has denied this.

Brig. Gen. Jose Alabanza, the military spokesperson, said the armed forces "is opening all our facilities to allow police to investigate."

"We don't know that in the left-wing organizations, purging from within has always been necessary ... So it is not only the military and the police that should be blamed," Alabanza said in a news briefing at Camp Aguinaldo.

Told this, Gen. Bernardo Liang, commander of the Army's 301st Brigade, which covers Panay Island: "It's not a policy of the Army and the armed forces to attack unarmed activists. We only run after armed groups."

Akbayan Rep. Rafael Mariano warned that inaction over Baldomero's killing "could further embolden unrepentant military thugs to kill."

He said Mr. Aquino's failure to act swiftly could embolden the perpetrators and worsen the culture of impunity.

"Further delay, inaction and silence on the killings might send a bad signal to the killers that the state administration is giving its consent," Mariano said in a statement.

Stop 'bang bang'

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño of Cavite, in the days ongoing the use of the "trampoong" or siren on the streets, Aquino should also stop the "bang bang."

Casiño said the members of Baldomero and Dagohoy "should be the last under the Aquino administration."

"The case of Baldomero will be the litmus test that will determine if President Noynoy's promise of justice for all is for real or an empty promise," he said in a statement.

Casiño called on Mr. Aquino's newly-formed truth commission should not keep pursued the suspected behind the extrajudicial killings.

The commissioners, to be headed by retired Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. to look into the scandals that besmirched the Aquino administration.

But Casiño said the scandals and controversies were "ripe for one [with] up-and-a-finishing kick by the Department of Justice."

"Saying on the killings is much more crucial for the truth commission because the amnesties are still going on ... If President Aquino is serious in ensuring this country-wound, the climate of impunity must be stopped," he said. With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Marlon Ramos

DepEd chief learns first lesson: Handling media

From page A1

On the first working day of the Aquino administration on Thursday Luistro went to the Department of Education (DepEd) and was asked by reporters what his policy was on its pilot project this year to avoid unwanted pregnancies and curb a runaway population growth.

The thesis of the month is not a solution.

Luistro refused to be drawn into the debate and it reminds that media people described as "reckless" said: "Mam sirve, nang media, kita & nakakalang ng pag-aanuncyo ni Aika Rmh nagpaag anyone ng mayon, multimillion."

In short, he said journalists weren't very helpful, even simply one to provoke fights. He said media preventing a disagreement and unlikely discussion of issues.

On Wednesday, he said in an interview that the media's coverage of the current controversy had only resulted in a heated exchange between the DepEd officials and the Catholic Church.

Bishops have vehemently opposed sex education and the long-standing reproductive health bill to promote responsible family planning in this overwhelmingly Catholic nation of 94 million Filipinos growing at the rate of 2 percent annually, roughly 2 million souls.

"I wish I could have said it in a better way," Luistro said yesterday.

"What can be construed something like a few days ago, you know I can, I will be able to bring across my messages more clearly," said the former president of De La Salle University and chancellor of the Ateneo administration.

Media seminar

Luistro said that when the media seminar he Cabinet members were convened, he "unanimously signed up for the first batch."

The seminar was ordered by President Aquino after Luistro and presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda clashed with the media on Thursday.

Luistro and Lacierda are among the first Cabinet officials to attend today's seminar. It will be conducted by Carol Lopez-Espinosa, a public television presenter, and Jose Valderrama Jr. Filly Espino, a close friend of Mr. Aquino. Aquino said he is a reporter of the Philippine News Agency during the martial law years.

The DepEd is beset by a host of problems that include, among others lack of resources—leading to build classrooms to meet its mandate to provide universal primary and high school education, low classroom teacher ratio, low competency rate, and the quality of education to global standards. The country is light years behind in education even among its neighbors in Southeast Asia, according to critics.

The Philippines is the only country with a 10-year basic education cycle, the rest of the world has 12 years. Educators still are grappling with the issue of using native dialects as a medium of instruction instead of English or Filipino.

To address the anti-child with crown, a complaint by academics over the past decade that has not been addressed because of a lack of transparency in the department and the failure of media to answer its questions adequately.

Dialogue with teachers

Quality education is regarded by economists and political analysts as the key to lifting the nation from poverty and a solution for social instability among impoverished Filipinos deprived of access to wealth because of the failure of agrarian reform.

ARMIN LUISTRO

On Monday, Luistro held a dialogue with education stakeholders and DepEd officials and employees to find out their concerns.

"I want to get to know the functions of each and every office in the next few days. But when I travel in meet with you, I will be the one going to your offices," Luistro said in a message to the employees and officials present during the flag-ceremony at the DepEd national headquarters.

"In two weeks, I need to submit a report to the President. So I will need to know where we stand right now. To do that, I will need your help in gathering the data and information for the report," he added.

He then met with a group of teachers representing various teachers' organizations led by ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio, who presented their concerns and sought Luistro's commitment to act on them.

While in his opening remarks, Luistro said he could not promise to deliver everything in his first year in office, he said he will intend to the major items raised concerning public school students.

"We will do our best to listen to everyone, gather what we can, as we can formulate the most appropriate plan of action," Luistro said. "We have existing programs that pose effusion and with [these] concerns, we can improve them and implement them more effectively."

Contrast with Br. Andrew

When asked about sex education, Luistro said that he would have to review the different DepEd programs before deciding on what to do with them.

Luistro reiterate on sex education is to dismiss contrast to that of the late Br. Andrew Gonzalez, another La Salian brother who served as education secretary during the short-lived Marcos administration.

In 1999, Gonzalez banned the use of condoms in public schools of lessons about contraception, condoms, RH, diaphragms and sex by the classroom as part of the health and population demographic subjects.

"What is necessary is to give people the idea that sex is one of the natural functions of life. It's nothing to be afraid of, nothing to be ashamed of. It is something that is given to us by God to care for man's welfare," Gonzalez said.

"We would be remiss if we didn't teach reproductive biology. Do we talk about means of limiting the family? Yes, we have to talk about the contraceptives, but the whole idea is it's your choice as a matter of conscience," Gonzalez said. "That's part of the freedom of a free democratic country."

He also disagreed with the conservative Catholic view that the sex education of children should be left to parents. With a report from Christina G. Hernandez

Gotcha on TV! Binay, red-faced, says sorry

From page A1

reprimanded the concerned personnel.

Binay's camera was caught by a news TV television crew hearing the red light at about 11:30 a.m. during recess in one of the lobbies of the Office of the Vice President on President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City.

No 'wangwang,' tae

Salgado said Binay had just come from the house of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and was talking on the phone inside his car when the

violation was committed.

"I was told that he was on the phone and that he was in between of what was going on because the Nagtahan [overpass] area were some detours from his car," Salgado told the reporters.

Binay was not to his office and could not be reached for further comment yesterday.

Salgado also sought to dispel speculations that Binay's convoy was using siren ("wangwang," in street lingo).

He said Binay had never used wangwang in his more than 28 years as mayor of Makati, except when responding to emergency situations like fires.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Aquino vowed to lead a serious campaign against the abuse of government power and perks, right down to the unauthorized use of sirens by some public officials.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda declined to comment on the reported traffic violation of the Binay convoy, simply saying: "Let him explain."

Binay requests

Also sought for comment on Binay's request for extra funds for his office and the setup of an official contingent for the Vice President, Lacierda said Binay could discuss the matter with leaders of Congress.

If Binay files that the funds in the proposed budget were not enough, "he could request for more," the Palace official added.

But in his personal view as a professor on constitutional law, Lacierda said, there is nothing in the Constitution that provides the vice president residence for the Vice President.

Review Morong 43 case, Palace tells DOJ

By Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Calleja

MALACAÑANG HAS TASKED JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima to review the case of the so-called "Morong 43," including a plea to immediately release two pregnant women among them.

In a press briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda yesterday said De Lima would study the case of the 43 health workers arrested in Morong last February on suspicion they were members of the communist New People's Army.

Relatives of some of the members of the "Morong 43" had rallied the residence of President Benigno Aquino III on Times Street in Quezon City last month, asking him to release the detained health workers.

Military operatives said the 43 health workers were making ammonium powder for assembling a bomber or bomb making at Infanthouse in Morong, Rizal.

The health workers denied the charge, insisting they were undergoing training for community medical missions.

The relatives said that among the 43 were two pregnant women who may give birth in jail if not released immediately.

They asked Executive Secretary to show mercy and free the two pregnant women and other ailing detainees.

In a statement yesterday for Free the 43 Health Workers' Alliance said 26-year-old Judelyn Cunita Olivarez was due this month, while 37-year-old Mercy Castro was in her sixth pregnancy and due to give birth in October.

Dr. Julio Cagulat, the group's spokesperson said the cells of the detainees are "cramped and dirty," making the pregnant women and the rest of the detainees susceptible to infectious diseases.

The Morong detainees possess conditions for the conspiracy someone of another detainee, Jose Bulleta.

At this point, medical and health issues should outweigh all the legalities of the custodial detention. They must be released under humanitarian considerations to show that the State at least has respect for human rights," Cagulat said.

"Not just for the Morong 43 but for every detainee for that matter, the State is obliged to accord them diverse conditions and just welfare while in prison," he said.

Sought for comment, Chief Supt. Ernesto Barrios, head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Metro Manila, said the bureau it was probably right to temporarily release the pregnant women.

Health chief for 'scientific' sex ed

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE NEW HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT of Health (DOH) has nothing against enacting sex education in schools as long as it is "scientifically taught in the context of biology" instead of "value education."

"What is important is that it is expressed as a manifestation of love and the creation of a good family environment," Health Secretary Enrique Ona told DOH bureaucrats.

According to Ona, "We should be very cognizance of the sensitivity of the public how it can be taught and what will be teaching them."

"Maybe, these are the areas where the problems are safer than whether it's in Grade 3, 4, 5 or 6 or high school," he pointed out, adding "I don't see any problems in terms of how sex education should be taught" in schools.

Ona's predecessor, Esperanza Cabral, got the ire of the Catholic church for pushing for early sex education in schools.

Bongbong asks court to junk PTA claim

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SEN. FERDINAND "BONGBONG" Marcos Jr. asked the antigraft court Sandiganbayan to junk a cross-claim of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society (PTS) involving a 57-hectare property in Tanay, Rizal that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) is also claiming.

Marcos said the PTS had "no cause of action" against his family and that the court has no jurisdiction over PTS's cross-claim on the property where the so-called "Malacañang of the South" is located.

In an earlier pleading, the PTS asked the court to either uphold its lease agreement with the Marcoses or, if the court nullifies the contract, to turn over to the PTS the improvements it has built on the property.

It was the PCGG which initiated a civil case against the PTS, and the Marcoses in March. The PCGG wants the court to nullify a lease agreement between the Marcoses and the PTS involving the property in question and award it to the state.

The subject property was turned by the PTS, from the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1978.

The PTS developed the area into a tourist destination but when the State sequestered it in 2003, the Marcoses asked the PTS to vacate the property.

The PTS resisted to the property forcing the Marcos family to file an ejectment suit in a municipal trial court in May 2007. The suit is pending.

The PCGG, however, asked the Sandiganbayan to instead nullify the lease agreement between the PTS and the Marcoses because it was illegal.

The PCGG alleged that there was no proof Marcos was the actual owner of the property and that the contract also allowed the former dictator to "profit enormously at the expense of this government."

But the PTS maintained that the lease agreement was legal.

It also asked the court that should it nullify the contract instead, the PTS should retain "possession of the infrastructure constructed thereon by the PTS."

The original lease agreement with the late dictator stated that the structures and other improvements the PTS would build would become property of the Marcoses.

Brace for rains, Noy orders gov't agencies

By Christina O. Avendaño

WITH THE HEAVY RAINS EXpected to come into the country by September, President Aquino ordered yesterday government officials to prepare this early to ensure that the government would be prepared for the rains and any disaster.

He issued the order after meeting with officials on top of disaster preparations led by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin.

Soliman said that President Aquino asked them to coordinate with local government officials in 44 provinces identified to prepare steps to be "highly evacuation" to flooding, landslides and storm surges in order to come up with "short-term, medium-term and long-term" plans on how to mitigate disasters.

She said that the government is ready to class the initial sum of the calamity fund budget was released.

Soliman said at least for the Department of Social Welfare Department, it has used up P120 million of P133 million allocated as budget from the calamity fund.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Enduring impunity

EDITORIAL

THE FORCES OF IMPUNITY WON'T GO QUIETLY into the night. Their targets—journalists and political leaders—continue to be hunted down. The message: the murders of retired journalist Jose Dagoin in Kalinga and Councilor Fernando Baldonasco in Aklan have sent it this: both the new administration, which has vowed to end the era of impunity, and the targets of that impunity can't rest easily.

Indeed, it is more likely that the killings will increase, as the government embarks on a showdown with those who are unwilling to be held accountable for their impunity over nearly a decade. Old scores will continue to be settled by assassination, and the catalogue of past crimes perpetrated by new ones, each one of which sends a further message: the impunity of the past will continue to be demonstrated by impunity in the present.

Dagoin was no longer an active member of the media when he was killed, which has led the police to suggest his murder was motivated by a personal grudge. He had refused to settle a case he filed against someone who tried to stab and kill him. Dagoin's pain (unconscionably, by all accounts) took in the media and his being killed some days after publicly expressing concern over media killings have added a political dimension to his death.

The murder of Fernando Baldonasco is a clever attack on the Republic, since he was a re-elected councilor; it is also a clever attack on President Aquino's political party, since Baldonasco was the municipal coordinator of the Liberal Party. His murder points to another problem confronting public officials, particularly those who have decided to pursue the path of peace instead of the path of rebellion: He was identified with the Bayan Muna party-list and the military probably had little affection for the man. A swordsmen for the LP he just as probably was little loved by fellow militants who chose to pursue a different political line in the last elections. It is even possible there was a confluence of motives, as many sides could have found his murder politically useful.

What both murders have in common is that people tried to kill them before, and the police investigations produced no results. The police haven't helped matters by separating likely suspects from the less likely, or distinguishing, early on, what sort of crimes the murders really represent. Were they politically motivated murders? And if so, who are the likely suspects, and if not, what are the more probable motivations?

Either way, of course, they point to the fact that the reign of impunity has not ended. Even if one or both of the murders aren't politically motivated, they point to the Wild West nature of law and order in the country. If politically motivated, they serve as an indictment of the Philippine National Police's ability to maintain the peace and guarantee the security of civilians and officials alike.

This is particularly troubling because the leadership of the PNP has remained immune to the change of leadership that is taking place, for example, in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Among all our national institutions, the PNP is the single agency that can point to consistently to command: it has been exempted from the reversible adjustments that take place in the transition from one administration to the next.

The administration, from the President to the secretary of justice, can reinstate policy all they want, but it is in the implementation of that policy that both sincerity and capacity will be judged. These murders point to the reality that while words in and officialdom are high-profile targets, so long as impunity endures, the entire nation is a target. The particular circumstances surrounding these two murders illustrate how easy it is to literally get away with murder.

These murders are provocations. They infuriate how even as the administration and the media obsess over whether anyone is getting a honeymoon, there is no honeymoon as far as those who have an intention of abiding by the law are concerned. They will run for less, they will not hide; the score continues and it is being waged against the whole Philippine society.

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Councilors, barangay officials also have own pork

(Continued from last Monday, July 5)

BESIDES IT IS A CRIME AND A FORM OF CORruption that prostitutes, including the incumbent, P-Noy, routinely promise to stop and punish. Yet every year, when the president presents his administration's proposed budget to Congress, he/she routinely betrays That is by including in the budget proposal appropriations for the congressional pork barrel disguised as its sworn unending name like Priority Development Assistance Fund or Countrywide Development Fund.

Congress is prohibited from adding appropriations not in the original budget proposal of the executive department. It can only subtract from or transfer funds in the original budget. So that if there is an allocation in the budget proposal for pork barrel funds, there will be no pork, no shift of the people's money no corruption. That is not hard to do, is it?

But why is it that all presidents include in their budget proposals every year allocations for pork? Because it is their way of bribing legislators to do the president's wishes—vote for pet bills, override opposition to be Senate president or speaker, vote down impeachment complaints, etc. etc. Congressmen and your pork barrel gets released promise don't cooperate and you get nothing.

By doing so, presidents, of all people, commit bribery. They become conspirators in corruption. Not only conspirators but the original sin seen in the pork barrel thefts by including allocations for pork in their budget proposals. This is in addition to the shopping bags full of cash that a previous president was caught handing to congressmen mentioned in Malacañang.

"Pighating" (change) is the promise of P-Noy and the theme of his inaugural speech. Will there be a change in his budget proposal to be submitted to Congress this month? Will there be no allocations for pork, or will it be "business as usual" and "change is coming"? I have my doubts considering the both P-Noy and budget Secretary Florencio Abad are former congressmen who most likely benefited from the pork barrel system.

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

In fact, this is what attracts most politicians to run for Congress. Imelda Marcos, elected as representative of Ilocos Norte, has already made it known that she would redirect her pork, although she qualified it by saying that she would use it "wisely." Sonsyo Ong Shiao Paquiao, a multimillionaire, already has plans on what to do with his pork. A party-list representative, as most as he or she host in the House of Representatives, was reported to get a staff member: "How do we get our pork?" I used it."

To be fair, a few senators have spurned their pork allocations, and some congressmen, particularly those from militant party list groups, have been denied by GMA-Malacañang their pork.

Which brings me to those ignorant or (bad) party list representatives per pork allocations! Where will they use them? They don't have national districts that need infrastructure projects. Are pork barrel funds audited by the Commission on Audit?

Speaking of audits, do you know that the in-house auditors of most government agencies are sometimes co-conspirators in the theft of the people's money. The auditors are the watchdogs of government spending, the guardians of the people's money who are supposed to see to it that the money is spent properly. But they are co-opted into the criminal activities by being given shares in the business.

For example, when giving themselves bonuses as taxpayers' expense, board members of government agencies or councilors of local governments (

Antagonizing the press

THE FIRST SKIRMISHES BETWEEN THE AQUINO administration and the media flared up on the first day after his inauguration on June 30, heralding an early end to the traditional honeymoon period during the first 100 days.

The tensions stemmed from President Aquino's Memorandum Circular No. 1 that declared vacant as of last Wednesday the positions of all non-career appointees of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and extended for another month the services of contractual employees. The next day, Malacañang rescinded the order, specifying who among the non-career appointees should stay and who should go. The two orders caused confusion in the bureaucracy, forcing presidential officials to make many prodigy flights to Baguio to find out what their status was. The memorandum was signed by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa.

It was not the rubbled reversal of the memorandum that strained press relations with the Palace. It was the intolerance by presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda of the Palace correspondents during the press briefing by Lacierda at 10:30 a.m., but he failed to show up. Two hours later, reporters were told that he was in a meeting with the President and could not be disturbed. By then, it was past the deadline for online. To the reporters, this was rude behavior. Nothing offends beat reporters more than favoritism when given one network or news organization a scoop and no advantage.

Lacierda's tardiness in addressing the 30 reporters during the campaign, without any major gaffe. When questioned by Palace reporters, Lacierda apologized, saying, "I committed to speak to MTRCB before, and it's a, it's a mortal sin, so I think it is." (By Malacañang Press Corps. I've learned my lesson, so since again, let me apologize to the Malacañang Press Corps.") Pressed by one reporter whether the removal of the memorandum was "joyful," a first pun on the first anniversary of his new presidency, Lacierda added it merely "fine-tuning of the language of the order." He did not say whether Ochoa, a lawyer close to the President, had studied it before it was issued. He said the revision now made because there was a need to "improve the language" of the order.

This was Lacierda's baptism of fire in his new job, which is the front line of presidential contact with the media. The presidential spokesman, who hosts for the President and whose expected to be his authoritative voice, is the public's window to the President's thinking.

Some observers, who are not inclined to find fault with the administration this early, would charge the gaffe to inexperience and the process of settling in, but the incident diminishes the import of the President's inaugural Address, especially his last one on "continuity" by GMA securing in and out of congested traffic.

Many in the press were less offended by Lacierda's equivocations over the removal of the memorandum order and the lieutenant in giving more than by what they said the patronizing manner in which he replied to reporters' questions. I am sensitive to interview on the incident, and I am less insulting and I thought he was condescending.

Inside from Lacierda, another Cabinet member who dazzled his job by antagonizing the press was Education Secretary Armin Luistro who ran down a reporter who was asking questions about the controversial sex education program of his predecessor. In his manner of speaking, Luistro, a rabble-rousing political activist engaged in a street protest.

This behavior does not come as a surprise, because of Luistro's background as a senior congregant. He is a cleric and was chancellor and president of De La Salle University. His appointment as head of the Department of Education immediately raises the issue of whether clerics should ever be elected or appointed to public office, given the explicit constitutional mandate separating Church and State.

The party-list group, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, has rejected the appointment. Will Luistro, known to the Catholic Church as the issue of sex education? The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is opposing the DepEd's plan to make sex education in schools.

Apart from this, Luistro gained a high profile as an aggressive political activist in the campaign to bring down the Arroyo administration. He led the formation of the Coalition of Truth supporting the impeachment of President Arroyo in September 2005. Along with the late President Corazon Aquino, Luistro brought together opposition members, and members of the "Hyatt 10", and other anti-Arroyo groups in an interfaith Mass on the La Salle Green Hill campus.

In October 2006, Luistro joined in protesting against Mr. Arroyo's "illegal and immoral" attempt to change the Constitution through a "people's initiative." In February 2008, he threw his support behind MTR (Mr. Michael Ray Aquino) Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Luistro is a leader of the Black and White Movement, which campaigned for the resignation and impeachment of Arroyo.

In response to the reports about the divisive behavior of Lacierda and Luistro, President Aquino told his Cabinet members to undergo a seminar on "how to handle" the media. The President said "we want to engage the people on the agenda" and to communicate what plans the government have — "not just the substance, the form is also very important."

Already Lacierda and Luistro have become easily magnets for media attention.

A disabled athlete's ordeal

SUSAN DUMAPONG HAS LONG BEEN BEDRIDDEN by her desire to be country as an athlete, competing in powerlifting events in the Paralympics, a paralel activity that usually takes place alongside or immediately before or after an Olympics.

Unfortunately, the Paralympics attract income as much media coverage or attention as the Olympics. This, even if the back stories of many of the disabled competitors at the Paralympics are more moving and interesting than those of the non-disabled athletes.

Now, based on Adrian's experience, it seems that local sports officials also do not consider the achievements of disabled athletes as important or significant as those of their able-bodied counterparts. In fact, as the following story will show, he says do not even consider disabled athletes as "athletes" deserving of recognition, support or subsidies.

Although he reports the sports hierarchy to be unbodied more with the new Aquino administration, Miss Barrido, who heads Philsports, the local sports body for athletes with disabilities, says he decided to make public Adrian's humiliating experience because "how He Dumapong was treated unfairly and ignored by the Philippine Olympic committee" should not be allowed to pass without comment or consequence.

Adrian, Barrido reminds, is an athlete who has won medals for the Philippines in the Paralympics, games and Asian Games (ASEAN Para Games, the equivalent of the Southeast Asian Games). Philsports endorsed his participation in the International Paralympic Committee Athlete Leadership Summit in Bonn, Germany.

It was in this context that Adrian went to Pasay begging, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, requesting for financial support for his upcoming trip to Germany. The PSC is charged with the development of sports and athletes, including supporting their international forays.

The following is Adrian's account of her encounter with begging, with some editing for brevity.

"I (Pili) asked for the Chairman to meet him on June 7 regarding my request for financial assistance. I arrived at the PSC lobby around 11:25 a.m. and because I was in a wheelchair and could not go up to the fourth floor office (at once a violation of the accessibility code—RA8), I asked the guard to advise the chairman's office of my arrival.

"However, the Chairman was busy and I was told by a member of his staff to just wait. (I waited for more than two hours before) I thought I would finally see me. When he came down to the lobby, he apologized to the staff for his tardiness but not to me, in spite of the fact that he saw me who asked me to see him at the agreed time.

"He then called me to a corner and I was expecting that we would begin to discuss the details of my letter. But alas, he started loudly bemoaning the concerning Philippine matches. I clearly remember him saying that (the PSC is not mandated to help disabled athletes because that was (disabled athletes) should go to the DSWD instead. He also told me to tell Philippine athletes and athletes not to ask our house money) from the PSC because disabled sports are not recognized.

"I should have known that the Chairman's tardiness without apology is an indication of how little he sees me as a person. After hearing him vent for almost 30 minutes, I felt so broken that I cried. I (was) then ignored and dismissed; we were in the lobby of the PSC, for God's sake! I cried out of frustration because I wanted to ensure back but had to 'swallow' my words because of his position. Most of all I cried because of a statement that deserves me; the chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission does not fully grasp the reality that 'Sports is for All,' including children, youth, women and people with disabilities. Despite occupying the highest position in the PSC, Chairman Angping needs to be enlightened that we now have the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other laws that uphold and protect the rights of PWDS."

* * *

THE UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities declares that the state should ensure "persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities," including encouraging and promoting the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels."

By training that the PSC has an obligation to support the travel of an athlete with disability and disclosing that he joined in the ESPYS, Angping obviously believes that an athlete with disability is not a real athlete but is instead a "welfare" or charity case.

Should the Aquino administration reform the process of such an ignorant culture afford to cut sports function? Still if he can berate in public an athlete with an obvious disability, I wonder how bugging team all other athletes who fall under his authority.

By packaging up this specific case (which I hope it will), I also hope the Aquino administration will use this as an occasion to articulate the President's own thinking on the rights of people with disabilities, and on immediate policies that would have all the agencies under the executive branch of government to promote the rights of PWDs, not just in the arena of sports but in all areas of life.

As my friends among the community of the disabled tell me, other than pre-lighting for to not more than 30 minutes, they have no special privileges. They only recognize that their rights as human beings and citizens to "enabling" environment as all they ask, not more charity or subsidy. But give people with disabilities the chance to prove their worth and then self prove themselves worthy.

Kids and condos

A FRIEND OF MINE ALMOST LOST HER SON LAST WEEK-end in a near drowning accident.

My friend was reading that day and had ventured her son to adventure who live in a condo. There were four toddlers and four adults swimming, no other words, a one to one ratio, and yet...

"Pinoy near drowning" (not even a sentence) was the phrase I kept hearing from the adults as they tried to figure out what happened. One moment the boy, who is 3 years old, was playing by the kids' wading pool and the next thing, he was floating face down, motionless, in the pool.

There was panic and hysteria but there was also, fortunately, presence of mind. One of the relatives quickly scooped up the child and began pumping on the child's bloated belly to get the water out. Another swimmer knew something more drastic had to be done and took up the child, a woman companion and the kids' relatives running with him toward the elevators. The next cut the cop floor of a building with one elevator and the elevator ride was relative void me afterwards, seemed to take forever. But the Good Samaritans were not about to lose time in the elevators while the man held the child, the woman administered CPR.

Meanwhile, the nurses by the pool had phoned one of the condo managers and the actual quickly as well, ordering the guards to get a taxi, which was waiting for the family when they got to the lobby. The child was still unconscious, but was breathing. In the taxi, they continued to try to pump water out and the kid eventually fell throw up the water and recover some hoarseness.

The child was in the nine days in the hospital for observation and now the family budget threaten off by several thousand pesos in hospital fees, the relatives are learning that condo living poses new safety challenges for children.

"We're about this," one of the relatives practically ordered me, and I promised I would. We have no lack of articles about hazards and safety for children but something is said about raising children in these high rise homes.

Wings and lifesavers

Many condos now have swimming pools and other amenities such as a gym, children's playground, even a day care center. I appreciate how the condos are making such facilities—primarily swimming pools—to be found and easy to locate. But the risk—available in more people. I also think a condo pool is actually safer than an individual house pool. I grew up hearing a story repeated so many times in dart-gathings, of a family friend whose son drowned in their own pool. Kids have easy access to a home pool but in a condo, they aren't usually so easily able to get to the pool area.

Nevertheless, there are still risks in a condo pool. Most condos I have seen do not have lifeguards, which is understandable because most times, weekdays especially, there's no one using the pool. But the management of this particular condo where the near-drowning incident took place is now thinking of adding lifeguards on duty at all times.

Condo users should follow the lead of the hotel hotels, which now require that children wear "wings" when swimming in their pools. If you don't bring your own, the hotels charge you for rent (as much as P200 when you can buy them for less than P100 in stores that sell sporting goods as tops). There are inflatable contraptions that are around the upper arm. The wings are portable, allowing children to float in the pool. My friend's son didn't have those wings and I can remember they could have made a difference. They are better than lifesaver because the children don't have to hold on to anything, but if there are no wings available, lifesavers are good too.

The wings and lifesavers are not a substitute though for parents and other adults supervising children. Call me a worry wart but when my kids are swimming, I never let them out of my sight, not even for a few seconds. Unless they have had swimming lessons, young children don't know that when they're under water, they're not supposed to breath so even within a few seconds, they will take in a lot of water, drowning themselves even in the shallowest of pools.

I am convinced kids should get swimming lessons as early as possible. Swimming classes are now available in many places, even for infants, the instructors say being an months. A friend of mine sent her infant son for these lessons and she says that now, even when taking a bath, he unconsciously holds his breath! Swimming lessons are actually easier to teach because they have no fears yet.

Inside the condo

Tools are only one aspect of kids' safety in condo living. There's danger lurking as well in the condo unit itself. Because the units tend to be small (I have seen some as tiny as 30 square meters), many more things are crammed into the unit, inviting accidents. Give special attention to gadgets with electric cords, and that includes computers. Young children can get entangled in them, or pull on them, sending the appliance crashing down. Special attention has to be given to keeping stoves and water heaters out of reach of children.

Besides the appliances, condo dwellers have to recognize that there are just too many things packed into the units and it's important to keep things organized. Avoid piling one thing on top of another, they are bound to fall, hitting children and adults.

Bathrooms are often the most cluttered part of a home, sometimes with electrical appliances like shavers and hair dryers posing extra dangers. Condos don't have as high standards as hotels do, which have special safety outlets in the toilet for electric gadgets.

A condo unit is a wonderland for toddlers learning to crawl and walk. They will explore every nook and cranny, which has its risks too. And when there's a mix of childhood different ages, they will find ways to play, including hide-and-seek, sometimes ending up in dangerous and unsafe to get out.

I am not a child expert and I am writing from a place that must be considered one of the most dangerous zones in the area around the windows. If the windows open up, even with a small space, then find ways to keep them locked. Not only that, do not have tables or chairs next to the window because even very young children will find ways to get up there.

I promised my friend to use the column to thank all the Good Samaritans. I know they would prefer not to be named but I wanted to say the couple by the pool was from Victory Fellowship. (I'm always amazed at how ever-congenial Hispano-condo staff will remember owners and tenants by their professions, work place, even religious affiliations!) I am still not the name of the one who helped with cardiopulmonary, who medicated the nurses on staff. Salamat po.

There's a postscript from Nigeria: "It takes a village to raise a child." I think we're going to have a new one: "It takes moms, yes-condo-owner-a child!"

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To teach or not to teach sex education

HED TO NOT IMMEDIATE TRAINT IN PHILIPpine schools. It is a touchy subject, which many teachers find too hot to handle.

In the act I might general psychology in a Catholic university for almost a decade (15 years ago) and widely integrated human sexuality into my lectures. And I am not exaggerating when I mention. We did not have any prescribed modules. My teaching approach seemed chaotic because I jump around the lesson (Human Development) by asking my students to write five to 10 questions—anonymously—and we take it one month of paper. In one wrote his or her name for confidentiality. "These questions can be very embarrassing so that no one might dare ask the person," I explained. You could have them see them." In mind as they assembled to write their questions.

"Here the fun began. After shuffling the sheets of paper, I would pick one or students, read the question, and give the answer as precisely and briefly as I could. Sometimes I would ask to another question and the cycle was repeated.

The whole process might seem chaotic. However, behind this process was a meticulous (and tedious) and well-calculated preparation: reading tons of research materials to be summarized (often) before buying books with my own money when not available in the library) to distinguish the best fiction or confirm the veracity of something considered as common knowledge. (The internet is a great source, but one has to be careful in discerning which are research-based from mere hearsay.)

Although there was apparent randomness in this activity, there was really a conscious effort to promote critical thinking and to encourage honest and contemporary research. The focus was generally on four pregnancy, sex act, hygiene, physiology and similar information, which I believe are based on the purported Department of Education modules.

I found presenting a situational one effective. For instance, in response to the question, "Bata pero ayaw kong nanay gibaan, makakabuntis ba?" (If we did it once, will this lead to pregnancy?), I would present a hypothetical situation:

Lady-E is a beautiful young woman, whose ust know nothing about except that she is premature. Lando-E is a handsome, macho guy who has been there boyfriends. Boyfriend A made love to her this morning at around 7:05 a.m. boyfriend B, who is very health conscious, made love to her at around 1 p.m. In the evening, at around 10:05 boyfriend C, the richest, made love with her. (The situation has a million variations of course.)

As simple question is presented: Lady-E got pregnant after a few weeks? Who is the father and why? (One clever student might recommend DNA testing, but I would suggest that even that was in the meantime.) I encouraged individual feedback. If somebody said, "It is the first time! Because he did it first," I would ask, "Even if the pot had but more abundant a few days ago?" The logic that shifted the emphasis on the "quantity" of sperm cells. "Then if he was using condom?" shifting the topic to safe sex. The topics and discussions would be overwhelmingly fun but I made sure it did not veer away from the topic.

Sometimes, I asked a question that was too "intuitive" for their age level (e.g., How will I enjoy hills sex?), I either skipped the question or phrased it differently. Sometimes, I would simply tell them to read Dr. Margarita Holmes' (my sexology professor at the University of the Philippines) book when I will lay my second classroom in clinical psychology and the best professor I ever had). His articles are all over the Internet.

The area of review on the college level. However, my experience in collecting anonymous questions and conducting an informal survey, I found out that some of my students would not even propose whether their decisions were on a disagreement.

The behavior does not come as a surprise, because of Luistro's background as a senior congregant. He is a cleric and was chancellor and president of De La Salle University. His appointment as head of the Department of Education immediately raises the issue of whether clerics should ever be elected or appointed to public office, given the explicit constitutional mandate separating Church and State.

The party-list group, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, has rejected the appointment. Will Luistro, known to the Catholic Church on the issue of sex education? The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is opposing the DepEd's plan to make sex education in schools.

Apart from this, Luistro gained a high profile as an aggressive political activist in the campaign to bring down the Arroyo administration. He led the formation of the Coalition of Truth supporting the impeachment of President Arroyo in September 2005. Along with the late President Corazon Aquino, Luistro brought together opposition members, and members of the "Hyatt 10", and other anti-Arroyo groups in an interfaith Mass on the La Salle Green Hill campus.

In October 2006, Luistro joined in protesting against Mr. Arroyo's "illegal and immoral" attempt to change the Constitution through a "people's initiative." In February 2008, he threw his support behind MTR (Mr. Michael Ray Aquino) Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Luistro is a leader of the Black and White Movement, which campaigned for the resignation and impeachment of Arroyo.

In response to the reports about the divisive behavior of Lacierda and Luistro, President Aquino told his Cabinet members to undergo a seminar on "how to handle" the media. The President said "we want to engage the people on the agenda" and to communicate what plans the government have — "not just the substance, the form is also very important."

Already Lacierda and Luistro have become easily magnets for media attention.

A disabled athlete's ordeal

SUSAN DUMAPONG HAS LONG BEEN BEDRIDDEN by her desire to be country as an athlete, competing in powerlifting events in the Paralympics, a parallel activity that usually takes place alongside or immediately before or after an Olympics.

Unfortunately, the Paralympics attract income as much media coverage or attention as the Olympics. This, even if the back stories of many of the disabled competitors at the Paralympics are more moving and interesting than those of the non-disabled athletes.

Now, based on Adrian's experience, it seems that local sports officials also do not consider the achievements of disabled athletes as important or significant as those of their able-bodied counterparts. In fact, as the following story will show, he says do not even consider disabled athletes as "athletes" deserving of recognition, support or subsidies.

Although he reports the sports hierarchy to be unbodied more with the new Aquino administration, Miss Barrido, who heads Philsports, the local sports body for athletes with disabilities, says he decided to make public Adrian's humiliating experience because "how He Dumapong was treated unfairly and ignored by the Philippine Olympic committee" should not be allowed to pass without comment or consequence.

Adrian, Barrido reminds, is an athlete who has won medals for the Philippines in the Paralympics, games and Asian Games (ASEAN Para Games, the equivalent of the Southeast Asian Games). Philsports endorsed his participation in the International Paralympic Committee Athlete Leadership Summit in Bonn, Germany.

It was in this context that Adrian went to Pasay begging, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, requesting for financial support for his upcoming trip to Germany. The PSC is charged with the development of sports and athletes, including supporting their international forays.

The following is Adrian's account of her encounter with begging, with some editing for brevity.

"I (Pili) asked for the Chairman to meet him on June 7 regarding my request for financial assistance. I arrived at the PSC lobby around 11:25 a.m. and because I was in a wheelchair and could not go up to the fourth floor office (at once a violation of the accessibility code—RA8), I asked the guard to advise the chairman's office of my arrival.

"However, the Chairman was busy and I was told by a member of his staff to just wait. (I waited for more than two hours before) I thought I would finally see me. When he came down to the lobby, he apologized to the staff for his tardiness but not to me, in spite of the fact that he saw me who asked me to see him at the agreed time.

"He then called me to a corner and I was expecting that we would begin to discuss the details of my letter. But alas, he started loudly bemoaning the concerning Philippine matches. I clearly remember him saying that (the PSC is not mandated to help disabled athletes because that was (disabled athletes) should go to the DSWD instead. He also told me to tell Philippine athletes and athletes not to ask our house money) from the PSC because disabled sports are not recognized.

"I should have known that the Chairman's tardiness without apology is an indication of how little he sees me as a person. After hearing him vent for almost 30 minutes, I felt so broken that I cried. I (was) then ignored and dismissed; we were in the lobby of the PSC, for God's sake! I cried out of frustration because I wanted to ensure back but had to 'swallow' my words because of his position. Most of all I cried because of a statement that deserves me; the chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission does not fully grasp the reality that 'Sports is for All,' including children, youth, women and people with disabilities. Despite occupying the highest position in the PSC, Chairman Angping needs to be enlightened that we now have the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other laws that uphold and protect the rights of PWDS."

* * *

THE UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities declares that the state should ensure "persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities," including encouraging and promoting the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels."

By training that the PSC has an obligation to support the travel of an athlete with disability and disclosing that he joined in the ESPYS, Angping obviously believes that an athlete with disability is not a real athlete but is instead a "welfare" or charity case.

Should the Aquino administration reform the process of such an ignorant culture afford to cut sports function? Still if he can berate in public an athlete with an obvious disability, I wonder how bugging team all other athletes who fall under his authority.

By packaging up this specific case (which I hope it will), I also hope the Aquino administration will use this as an occasion to articulate the President's own thinking on the rights of people with disabilities, and on immediate policies that would have all the agencies under the executive branch of government to promote the rights of PWDs, not just in the arena of sports but in all areas of life.

As my friends among the community of the disabled tell me, other than pre-lighting for to not more than 30 minutes, they have no special privileges. They only recognize that their rights as human beings and citizens to "enabling" environment as all they ask, not more charity or subsidy. But give people with disabilities the chance to prove their worth and then self prove themselves worthy.

Promise of new day: what happens next?

I HAVE WITNESSED FIVE PRESIDENTIAL oath-takings since 1986. Each oath-taking always promised a new day and renewed the hope for national deliverance, despite questions about the new president's moral integrity and capability to fulfill the nation.

Last June 30, I watched President Benigno S. Aquino III deliver his inaugural speech. One could sense his sincerity and willingness. His unassuming demeanor, his candor both in his speech and spontaneous responses, he seems to be not an opposite of former President Macapagal-Arroyo. He made a good decision in declaring the opposite in Pilipino only to ordinary people readily understood. The commitment to eradicate corruption and red tape in the bureaucracy is correct one task because corruption is already a day-to-day practice in most government agencies—not only among top level officials but also even among lowly clerks.

LETTERS

To stop corruption, we must not rely on the new President alone to criticize, we must be vigilant and do our share of the struggle. We must cite the simplest laws. Citizens must also stand firm as well.

We do not expect changes overnight, but we hope that in the next six years, PNoy agrees with the others to think themselves off the chair from the nine years of unpleasant we just have had.

—PEDRO S. BOLANO,
Mink Street, Doña Pilar,
Davao City

Most effective method to fight climate change

FORMER US VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE, the guru of global warming and climate change, has come and gone. The Kyoto Protocol and the Copenhagen Summit, too, have long adjourned. Everyone, meanwhile, is agreed that the planet Earth is in grave danger from mankind's wrath caused by greenhouse gases. Yet, no one has proposed a double-solution on how to combat this scourge.

Reducing carbon emission is unlikely with the adherence of developed countries to compromise, while abundance and renewable energy sources are still in the fledgling stage. This leaves the massive planting of trees—to absorb the existing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which will minimize global warming and reduce dangerous rise in the earth double measures. Furthermore, new planting for rehabilitation benefits millions as mankind.

Why then have world leaders not focused on this endeavor? The "Billion Trees Program" of the Trees for Life Foundation (TLF) is presently producing seedlings at the rate of 1 million per month. This is possible in the Don Mariano Marcos reforestation center in Bukidnon, which is one of the largest tree nurseries in the country.

TLF also has a program for the planting of trees in the Philippine forests. Volunteers are given instructions from environmental advocates and local government units to ensure that trees are properly planted and cared for from two or three years until the trees can be left alone. This two-pronged approach is the most effective and most likely successful method of tree planting.

We hope the program of TLF will serve as a model for the rest of the world. Every nation on earth should plant one billion trees and be successful to combat climate change.

Through this program, TLF also hopes to institute the massive planting of trees to qualify for Carbon Credit Certificates, the trading of which can earn foreign currencies greater than the sum total of the OFWs' remittances. What is more, the climate of making the Philippines green again will become a reality because who believes in this courage and wishes to participate in the progressive cause initiative.

—GILLAN CENTRELLA
executive director,
Trees for Life Foundation Inc.,
139, Street, 113 Legaspi St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

SOCCER IN THE PHILIPPINES: Opening ceremony of Carmel World Cup Pilipinas held last May 15 in CCP complex grounds in Pasay City, but with few Pilipino participants.

Beautiful game is longtime favorite in Iloilo town Barotac Nuevo

I READ RIGOBERTO TIGLAO'S JUNE 24 column regarding soccer in the Philippines. I came from the town Barotac Nuevo in Iloilo. In my town, football is the favorite sport. I remember when I was a child, during town fiestas, when basketball and football matches were played in the main arena, only the basketball players and referees would be left where the football was played. And we would excitedly wait for the return journey from Manila—the teams of the Army, Navy, Air Force and San Miguel—and Gota Beach's selected local members in the Grand Philippine University and University of Negros. Pilipo made a soccer interesting for us Barotac boys were the fun-filled years of the players of these teams from Manila and seven years were our town mates. As the saying goes in Iloilo, you're not a Barotacnon if you don't know how to play soccer.

Also, since the Philippines' national soccer team was formed in the 50s, we have produced more team members than any other town or town in the country. We have the only "Soccer Academy" in the country, it is situated just a kilometer outside our town proper. The project was funded with help from the German government. The academy has already produced national players.

Our youth have benefited from the game—there and more citizens have earned their college diplomas without having to pay school fees some town government.

In the late 70s, Barotac Nuevo became the national champion of a countrywide football tournament; it won against the final Miguel Football Club composed of professionals. And guess where seven of the seven members came from? Yes, from Barotac Nuevo. The game was played at the Ugnon Football Field along Avida division in Makati. I remember the Hongkong spectators, Barotacnons, outnumbering the spectators from other places that day.

Soccer remains our number one sport in Barotac Nuevo until today. The World Cup fever is being felt there, not in Manila.

—RUPERTO B. BELMONTE, Jr.
Bank St. Blvd.
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,
ofwbalat@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To : ALL TRANSPORT LEADERS and STAKEHOLDERS

Date : 05 July 2010

Please be informed that the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) will jointly hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on Friday, 09 July 2010, 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Bulwagan Edu, LTO Compound, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, on the following agenda:

1. ***Renewed Anti-Colorum Campaign***
2. ***Anti-Smoke Belching Program***

Witness the **Honorable DANTE M. LANTIN,** *DOTC Assistant Secretary and Officer-in-Charge, LTFRB* and **Honorable ALBERTO H. SUANSING,** *LTO Assistant Secretary,* this 5th day of July 2010.

Atty. EMMANUEL A. MAHIPUS
Executive Director

Popularize soccer as a 'viable dream'

THE RESPONSE TO RIGOBERTO TIGLAO'S June 24 article on why we're not good soccer. It's like a dialogue with the view that the problem is that in their nations don't have the space to play the game.

We don't need a proper football field to enjoy playing soccer. Children in Brazil play on the streets, and the entire area is their field. Some Costa Ricans, Serbia and Uruguay "let all these countries have qualified for the 2010 World Cup.

In the movie "Life of Gold," one would see that life in Rio de Janeiro is not much different from life in Manila. It is not the living conditions of the Philippines that make or disinterested in football; rather it is the lack of support from the government for sports development.

Perhaps we should start to popularize the Philippines on terms of making it to the FIFA. we do it in this dream that here that drive because it is an achievable dream. If the government would focus on football in a viable dream for Filipino boys, I guarantee you this interest in the sport would surge.

—PETER PUPUNTA SLEETS,
sleets.supporter@gmail.com

PhilHealth now covers 86% of 92M Pinoys

I'D WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT THE statement made about PhilHealth's coverage as just advanced by the Inquirer (July 2010) stated "Senate to manage the risk of adverse health." (Inquirer, 7/1/10). The self-stated PhilHealth's coverage is about a third or a little over 11 million of 84 million Filipinos.

We wish to inform Senator Lim that PhilHealth has more than 24 million principal members from its five sectoral/wage categories with close to 60 million qualified dependents in the entire nation.

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Blumentritt Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to 896-6785, 897-0703, 897-4766, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) is inviting offers for lease by way of individual Sealed Bids, real property (and) for commercial use with various sizes located at Manila Harbour Center, City of Manila.

Terms of Reference and Bid Proposal Form can be secured free of charge at the Office of the Manager, Investment Department, at 4th Floor, Room 405, Annex of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati starting **July 07, 2010.**

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on **July 16, 2010, 6th Floor, Tagbanan Hall** Annex of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati. Schedule of submission and opening of bids shall be announced during the said conference.

The Home Development Mutual Fund reserves the right to reject any or all offers or accept such proposals as may be considered advantageous to the HDMF. Further, the Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the proponents for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of his offer.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Jose Romero S. Bayan at 848-62-62 or visit our corporate website at **http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph** or email us at jsbayan@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
OIC-EVP, Support Services Cluster

INQUIRER
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Will Marcoses' return shield them from suits?

By Cristina Arzadon
Lunag City

THE RETURN OF THE MARCOSES to Philippine politics has been largely seen as a calculated and methodical process to ensure that they will have immunity from suits under an Aquino presidency.

Whether this perception has some truth to it, only members of the Marcos family, who are now in key government posts, can confirm. Senator Imee Marcos and her children, Inner Ilocos Governor Matthew Marcos and Congressman Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., have each won a seat in Ilocos Norte representation, governor and senator, respectively.

It was their closest relative and former political ally, former Gov. Michael Keon, who lost his reelection bid in Ilocos, who revealed that the Marcoses wanted to be in power so a runner to protect them from a supposed political vendetta under the administration of President Benigno Aquino III.

Keon had said both Imelda and Imee were, at first, reluctant to run until surveys on the presidential front runners showed Aquino, the son of slain former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and the late President Corazon Aquino, leading the pack and would likely be elected president.

Imelda appears to be aware of the possibility that MS Aquino may go after her family, but she has shown no trouble as she huddles down to work at the House of Representatives.

> It will be interesting to see how the Marcoses will position themselves under an Aquino presidency

The Marcos widow has been in the middle of more than 900 lawsuits filed the government lost filed against the family members since their return from exile to the United States in the 1990s.

"I am glad to hear Noynoy (Mr. Aquino) said that there will be no vindictiveness because there is justice...I pray that this will be a reality; then there will be a true reconciliation for this country of different parties and families," media said during her 81st birthday celebration in the province last week.

She said the 901 cases lodged against them in various courts have been exhausted to one and she has one final justice to their favor.

In an interview before the May 10 election, Imelda said she welcomed the thought of being persecuted under Mr. Aquino's presidency.

"He can go after me, but I'm okay. The (United States) no less went against me, when I was alone, widowed and orphaned, president in a foreign country... but I won my case on my birthday," she said.

"And if [former President] Cory [for the last 22 years] delegation] me after I won my case in New York with 900 cases here, could not trust me, (neither can Mr. Aquino).

"If you are on the side of the truth and God, nobody can touch you. He (Mr. Aquino) can do all he wants, but who are right the truth?"

Wrongly seized

Imelda said she would not allow the government to seize the assets of the family of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos have been wrongly seized from them.

"I'm the one who is going to recover them and then I can go for a no-gun Filipino [program]," she said.

As the Marcoses start rolling their sleeves, it would be interesting to see how they would position themselves under an Aquino presidency.

Explaining the Marcoses' role under the Aquino administration, Lito Gonzaga, Imelda's spokesperson, said, "There is no definite stand yet. It's [a] wait-and-see [attitude]. They are in the opposition but that does not necessarily mean there will be no cooperation."

"If it is for the benefit of Ilocos Norte, they will have to work with the Aquino administration," Gonzaga said.

GOV. IMEE MARCOS

REP. BONGBONG MARCOS

WIDOW Marcos places a kiss on the refrigerated crypt of her husband, former strongman Ferdinand Marcos, during the commemoration of his 89th birthday in Batac, Ilocos Norte. —

10th Anniversary

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Assistant Editor Tony Hiergesia

Across the NATION

Chinese rescued from Sayyaf after 2 yrs

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A CHINESE NATIONAL WAS rescued from his kidnappers in the province of Sulu on Monday night after almost two years in captivity.

Chief Supt. Bienvenido Latag, police chief for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said Xi Li Wu, also known as Peter Un, was rescued in Sitio Tebig Isonin in the village of Lambago in Lindu town.

Latag said the rescue took place following an encounter between Abu Sayyaf bandits and elements of Mor Jayyaf bandits guarding him here on Monday on the island of Jolo, according to Director General Jesus Versoza, Philippine National Police chief.

Wu was the last remaining foreign captive held by Abu Sayyaf, a small Muslim terrorist group with links to al-Qaida and the Indonesian group Jemaah Islamiyah with a record of kidnappings, extortion and beheading in at least two provinces in Mindanao.

"Mr. Wu is still in daze, but is in high spirits," Versoza said.

"He will be airlifted to Manila after a medical checkup."

Versoza said the military had been monitoring the movements of the Abu Sayyaf bandits since Jan. 15, 2008, while he was during an electrical supplies were along Isonin Street in Jolo town.

Latag said Wu is an overstaying foreigner in the country.

"We will turn him over to the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation," Latag said.

Wu was tortured after a 10-minute gunfight between the policemen and dozens of Mor Jayyaf bandits guarding him but, leaving behind their cupboard and a cache of weapons, including a light machine gun and rocket-propelled grenades. No one was hurt in the exchange.

A simmering Muslim insurgency in Mindanao is the main ly Roman Catholic country is a fundamental security problem facing the new government of President Aquino.

The Philippines is also fearing one of the world's largest recurring communist insurgencies, which has killed 40,000 people and stunted growth in resource-rich areas outside Manila.

Police said Abu Sayyaf bandits moved Wu from one place to another to avoid detection, but security around him loosened up after the death of Alhadar Hasul, leader of the Abu Sayyaf group holding him in the town of Lindu.

The Abu Sayyaf is known to operate in Sulu and Basilan, where they have installed terror attacks recently.

One of the attacks was on civilians riding in a public utility jeep. Bandits opened fire at the jeep, killing at least four people.

The terror attacks prompted leaders of the Basilan Catholic Church to denounce authorities for failing to arrest residents of the province from the Abu Sayyaf and other criminal elements.

At one point, a Catholic bishop in the province called law enforcement operations against the terror attacks.

While the US government continues to provide training and little logistical support to the Philippine military to fight the Abu Sayyaf, the head of pacifiers continues to sow terror. —Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao with Reuters

SBMA puts stop to operations of subsidiary without revenue

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE board of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's manpower subsidiary has suspended the firm's operations after failing to keep its office.

Lawyer Eddie Tamondong, head of the SBMA's Freeport Services Corp. (FSC), said SBMA officials tried to keep the firm operating but declining revenue hampered their efforts.

"We've exhausted all possible means to keep it operating. [FSC Inc] no more source of revenue, we are no longer remains the expenses for salaries and operations," Tamondong said in a statement.

On June 23, members of the FSC board, which Tamondong chairs, decided to give the remaining 240 workers of the subsidiary their separation pay equivalent to a month's worth of salary for every year of service.

But Celso de los Santos, FSC administrative head, said the firm would observe some quiet until its office receives a notice.

FSC was created in 1998 to provide manpower services in SBMA. It operates several facilities and is engaged in various income-generating ventures like operating beach resorts, gasoline stations and stores. It also hosts a yearly bazaar.

The SBMA gets 5-percent share of revenue generated by FSC using SBMA facilities.

Tamondong said the FSC has never received any share in SBMA, prompting SBMA to take back some of the assets in the past two or three years.

Since 2006, SBMA has been subsidizing FSC P6 million monthly, or 972 million a year, for salary and operating expenses.

FSC's financial problem was aggravated by the size of its manpower, SBMA officials said. Rafael Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

TRIBUTE TO HUMAN RIGHTS WARRIOR
Clergymen and the indigenous community bid their last farewell to victim Bishop Francisco Claver at Baguio City Cathedral on Tuesday. Claver was one of the activists who fought for human rights in the martial law years.

Village dad takes paraffin test to clear self of Daguio slay

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A VILlage official in Tabuk, Kalinga, has submitted himself to a paraffin test to prove that he was not involved in the July 3 killing of veteran radio broadcaster Jose Dagulo.

Supt. Virgilio Laya, Kalinga police director, said Elode Waculden, a councilor of Benaregan Taga in Tabuk, had volunteered to undergo the test to prove that he did not fire a gun recently. The results would be released on Friday, Laya said.

Dagulo, 72, a former mayor of Bulpo Nicin-Kalinga, was shot and killed by a lone gunman who attacked him in his house in Taga on Saturday night.

Laya said Waculden had a previous misunderstanding with Dagulo regarding the realignment of funds awarded for a road project in their village.

He said Dagulo, a member of the Taga Watershed Association, sought the help of Kalinga Rep. Manuel Agyao and the Department of Public Works and Highways in funding the road project. However, Marcelino, the head of the village's public works committee, realigned the funds to two deep well projects.

Laya said Dagulo confronted Waculden on the fund realignment.

He said the police team investigating the murder found that the conflict between Waculden and Dagulo had prompted SPO4 Melvin Agyao to suspend the implementation of any project in the village until they settled the issue.

Laya said while investigators were looking at the conflict between Waculden and Dagulo, they were not discounting a robbery-slay as a possible motive in the killing. Filomeno Vlogan Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

DOH seeks to professionalize massage therapy

By Marc G. Alison
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE DEPARTment of Health (DOH) has taken steps to professionalize the massage therapy industry and remove the stigma of prostitution that has been associated with it.

Jose Migallos, presiding officer of the DOH Human Resource Development Secretariat, said the department has started implementing Presidential Decree No. 896 that required massage clinics and spas to have at least one licensed massage therapist (LMT).

Section 62(a) of PD 896, or the Code on Sanitation, mandated that a massage therapist should have a certification issued by the DOH Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapy before practicing this skill.

Migallos said in Cebu Friday last week for the oath-taking of 25 licensed therapists from the Visayas and Mindanao who passed recent licensure examinations.

"I urge you to uphold your profession. Getting your license is not merely a right to practice your profession because anyone can have the right to massage. However, your passing the licensure exam would verify to us that the public will be safe in your hands," Migallos told the new licensed therapists at the oath-taking rites.

Of the 136 who took the licensure exam last month in Davao, only 63 passed, or about 53 percent of the examinees. The Philippines now has about 8,000 licensed massage therapists.

Migallos said the DOH introduced amendments to PD 896 to provide therapists better compensation.

A massage therapist has to undergo training from any of 12 DOH-accredited training institutions before taking licensure exams given in June and December each year.

Road hazards mark SCTEx interchange at Floridablanca town

FLORIDABLANCA, PAMPANGA—More than 200 families living alongside a new road leading to and from the Floridablanca interchange of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) raised concerns for their safety due to risks they see from the project.

The first hazard spot in this 6-kilometer road is Barangay San Jose is on Kilometer 1+ where the road narrows and makes a sharp curve in front of a house, residents showed the Inquirer on Monday.

The other is on Kilometer 4+ where the road splits at the corner of an almost blind curve. The bigger lane heads straight to the SCTEx interchange and smaller lane descends toward the Outside Road.

Kristine Bermudez said she and her husband Benjamin have brought to various hospitals at least nine drivers hurt while driving their bicycles and motorcycles on Kilometer 1+ since the road was opened in Dec. 23, 2009.

The couple owns the house that stands beside the sharp curve. "We built the house before the road was built. I have sleepless nights because I'm worried we'll be injured by trucks," Bermudez said.

On Kilometer 4+, residents pointed at two concrete barriers destroyed by a truck on Monday morning.

Alberto Mendoza, San Jose barangay captain, said while the Department of Public Works and Highways built a road on what used to be the village's multi-road, the agency did not give the village an alternative access.

Persons leading their carabaos or guiding firewood had to avoid vehicles in the area.

Only a meter separates houses and the road, which is dark at night.

Mendoza said the residents were not consulted before construction.

The road also gave the town government access to a 3,000-square-meter dumpsite in the area.

Sanchez Abaya, chair of the Bantay Expressway and Diversion Authority, said the road from the toll plaza to the town proper was built under the supervision of the DPWH.

The 70-km SCTEx was built by Japanese contractors through a Japanese government loan. The interchange and another in Porac were completed and then added the to the chance of local officials.

Alfredo Tabuday, director of the DPWH in Central Luzon, said he sent a team to investigate the road and address the safety issues. He said, however, that there were enough signs along the road to guide motorists. Tarsicio Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

A HOUSE stands dangerously close to a bend on the Floridablanca interchange of the SCTEx.

PORTION of the Floridablanca interchange that separates into a Y

Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 997 Maligaya St.,
Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
WILTON PHILIPPINES INTERACTIVE ENTERPRISE INC. 10/F Marvin Plaza, Rufino cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City	Yoo Yeon Tan Malaysian	Sports Trader
WILTON PHILIPPINES INTERACTIVE ENTERPRISE INC. 10/F Marvin Plaza, Rufino cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City	Tuti Adyapamchachati Thai	Sports Trader
KJL TOSH LEADER CORP. 9001 Financial Center, Ortigas Mcapagal Ave., Pasig City	Chanbul Lee Korean	Marketing and Tour Manager
KJL TOSH LEADER CORP. 9001 Financial Center, Ortigas Mcapagal Ave., Pasig City	Eunjeong Lee (wife of Lee) Korean	Marketing Manager
GOLDEN BAY FRESH SEAFOODS RESTAURANT INC. Superblock K2, Lots 3 & 4, PRA Basa City, Mecapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Chan Ming Kee Yau Chinese	Chef
CHUNG A SUNG CO. LTD. 76 Sct. Tobias South Theight, Quezon City	Seongwoo Han Korean	Marketing Manager
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING (PHILS.), INC. 3100 N. Bridgeview, Northgate Cyberzone Filinvest, Alabang Muntinlupa City	Rahul Kumar Indian	Head - Human Resources
MY ENGLISH LEARNING CENTER, INC. Apsar 1 Bldg., Madrigal Park Business Center Ayala, Muntinlupa City	Jung Ki Lee Korean	Consultant
GOLDEN BAY FRESH SEAFOODS RESTAURANT INC. Superblock K2, Lots 3 & 4, PRA Basa City, Mecapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Kam Kuen Lo Singaporean	Chef
GOLDEN BAY FRESH SEAFOODS RESTAURANT INC. Superblock K2, Lots 3 & 4, PRA Basa City, Mecapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Wai Yong Lau British	Chef
GOLDEN BAY FRESH SEAFOODS RESTAURANT INC. Superblock K2, Lots 3 & 4, PRA Basa City, Mecapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Man Fei Lo Chinese	Chef
GOLDEN BAY FRESH SEAFOODS RESTAURANT INC. Superblock K2, Lots 3 & 4, PRA Basa City, Mecapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Xiaowen Wu Chinese	Chef
GOLDEN BAY FRESH SEAFOODS RESTAURANT INC. Superblock K2, Lots 3 & 4, PRA Basa City, Mecapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Chan Yuk Hei Singaporean	Chef
LONGTUNG CONSTRUCTION GROUP (PHILS.) CORP. 2608 Raffles Tower, Don Francisco Ortigas Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Gaojun Zhou Chinese	Project Supervisor
LONGTUNG CONSTRUCTION GROUP (PHILS.) CORP. 2608 Raffles Tower, Don Francisco Ortigas Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jianhua Bi Chinese	Material Officer
MALAYAN METALWORKS DEV. CORP. 6/F Tytana Plaza Bldg., Oriente St., Binondo, Manila	Xiang Yang Chinese	General Manager
MALAYAN METALWORKS DEV. CORP. 6/F Tytana Plaza Bldg., Oriente St., Binondo, Manila	Xiling Mo Chinese	Project Manager
MALAYAN METALWORKS DEV. CORP. 6/F Tytana Plaza Bldg., Oriente St., Binondo, Manila	Jiali Zhang Chinese	Assistant Financial Manager
MALAYAN METALWORKS DEV. CORP. 6/F Tytana Plaza Bldg., Oriente St., Binondo, Manila	Yanjun Pan Chinese	Operations Manager
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WILTON PHILIPPINES INTERACTIVE ENTERPRISE INC. 10/F Marvin Plaza, Rufino cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City	Liang Sek Mosand Chow Singaporean	Sports Trader
DAE HYUN ELECTRO. CO. LTD. INC. 4/F HMC Bldg., 1774 Rizal Ave. St., Manila	Soungsoo Bureau (wife of Ae) Korean	Financial Consultant
LEYTE IRONSAND CORPORATION 2/F Bloomingdale Plaza, Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Naibu Shang Chinese	Mining Technician
PANALO TOURS INC. 2/2 108 Globe Telecom Plaza cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	Ae Young Pi (wife of Park) Korean	Marketing Consultant
CHERWAY PHILIPPINES, INC. 23/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, #6766 Ayala Ave., cor. Paseo De Roxas, Makati City	Julien d'Jesis Tilquin French	General Manager
KOH'S EXCELLENCE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (P.T.) SOLUTION INC. 5-901 The One Exec Bldg., EDSA cor. West Ave., Sto. Nacuing Kamuning, Quezon City	Arunkumar Samyyannadar Indian	Web Ads Analyst
ZOM AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION CONSULTANT INC. 6/F Homeowners Tower, Sucoro St., Makati City	Junghoo Lee Korean	Head Consultant
PHILSEDYL INC. 2301 Cameron Bldg., 850 Pedro St., Bel-Air VIII., Makati City	Boram Yun nee Park) Korean	Operations Consultant
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES INC. Bldg. 1, SM Corporate Office, #1200 Bay Bldg., SM Central Bus. Park, Bay City, Pasay City	Jeongeun Kim Korean	Customer Service Representative - Korean Account
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES INC. Bldg. 1, SM Corporate Office, #1200 Bay Bldg., SM Central Bus. Park, Bay City, Pasay City	Masashi Yoshiara Japanese	Technical Support Representative - Japanese Account
S & P ETECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 2F IMC Bldg., LPM Compd., cor. 4th Ave., Cubi Avenue, Subic Bay, Subic	Jitender Kumar Indian	Sr. Mapping Engineer
LEYTE IRONSAND CORPORATION 2/F Bloomingdale Plaza, Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Qinglin Sun Chinese	Mining Technician
LEYTE IRONSAND CORPORATION 2/F Bloomingdale Plaza, Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Wenquan Zhang Chinese	Mining Technician
FIBERNET INC. 25/F SM Plaza Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City	Sujin Lee Korean	Customer Service Assistant Supervisor - Korean Account
PANALO TOURS INC. 2/2 108 Globe Telecom Plaza cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	Mian Lim (wife of Kim) Korean	Operation Manager
CASPO INCORPORATED 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Petery Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
FIRST SOURCE SOLUTIONS LIMITED 4-6/F First Source Bldg., Plaza E. Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang Muntinlupa City	Mandeep Singh Australian	Deputy General Manager
TAISEI DESIGN ENGINEERING & CONSULTANCY 2/F King's Court annex Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Fukuchi Natsuki Japanese	General Manager
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H BEAUTY INNOVATIONS, INC. 6/F Republic Glass Building, 108 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Masashi Mochimaru Japanese	Technical Consultant
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If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO S. AGRAVANTE
Regional Director

BRA-July 7, 2010

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SPORTS

First big free agent signing: NY tabs Amare

NEW YORK—AMARE STOUDEMIRE IS headed to the New York Knicks, and both sides are hoping he's not coming alone.

The Knicks said Monday they moved in sign Stoudemire to a contract into this week when the free agent reconstruction period ends. Stoudemire's agent, Happy Walters, said the deal is for the maximum allowed, which would be nearly $130 million over five years.

Wearing a blue Knicks hat, Stoudemire said he looked forward to rebuilding a franchise and bringing the Knicks back to the top—maybe with a player such as LeBron James or Dwyane Wade with him.

"I feel great about being a pioneer and showing my leadership," he said at Madison Square Garden, where signs throughout the restaurant showed the player pictured in a Knicks uniform.

The deal can't be signed until Thursday, after the midnight eight-day trade moratorium has been set.

It was a desperately needed score in free agency for the Knicks, who spent two seasons clearing enough cap space to afford two top players. They ran with James, Wade and Chris Bosh last week and believe they could still land one of them.

Stoudemire has already started recruiting, sending he spoke to James' pitchers and directly to Wade first week. And he said he wasn't he offended if those players say no to New York.

"Totally comfortable, totally confident that any leadership qualities will uphill all of us to do something great this upcoming season," Stoudemire said. "The Knicks are back."

The move reunites Stoudemire with Mike D'Antoni, his former coach in Phoenix. Stoudemire averaged more than 20 points in every season they were together and immediately becomes the best player D'Antoni has coached since leaving the Suns after the 2007-08 season.

"He's a dominant offensive player for sure, in a variety of ways," D'Antoni said.

Stoudemire's days with the Suns ended late last week when the team agreed to $40 million worth of deals with forwards Hakim Warrick and Channing Frye. The deals had clearly caused an commotion, but they also looked elsewhere after they'd reached a stalemate.

Stoudemire said he understood owner Robert Sarver's position and wasn't disappointed by the Suns refusal to give him a deal that would have paid him millions more. He said he's always loved New York and wanted to play here since the Knicks passed on him in the 2002 draft. AP

STOUDEMIRE

Django finally nails world pool crown

Victory worth more than money

HE'S NO LONGER THE GREATEST POOL player never to have won a world championship.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante fulfilled a long-cherished dream of capturing pool's biggest prize Tuesday when he toppled Ruo Pe-chung, 13-7, in the 2010 World Pool Championship in Doha, Qatar.

Playing mostly flawlessly since Day 1, Bustamante finished the nine-ball tournament without a single stumble to deservedly claim the $50,000 prize.

The purse paltry in comparison to the $1,000,000 won by Ronnie Alcano when the same event was held in Manila in 2006.

But this victory meant more than the money for the 47-year-old Bustamante as he finally erases the stigma of his loss to Earl Strickland in 2003.

The defeat to Strickland in Cardiff, Wales, came just a few days after his 7-month-old daughter, Shariel, died of an illness.

"He deserves this," said billiards guide Jose Ariston "Paeng" Reyes, referring to Bustamante who joined an elite group of Filipino world champions composed of 1999 winner Efren "Bata" Reyes, 2004 champion Alex Pagulayan, Alcano and women's 14-ball titlist Babylen Aznil.

"I'm really happy for him. This is the only title missing in his collection," added Filipino Bustamante's chief backer.

Performing with surgical precision, Bustamante disposed of compatriot Antonio Lining, 11-5, in the quarterfinals to forge a rivals duel with Ruo, an 11-10 winner over Johnny Archer of the United States.

The Philippines was well represented in the week-long tournament with 16 players, including Alcano, Reyes and Dennis Orcollo, reaching the knockout stage.

Alcano was eliminated by Ruo in the semifinals, while Reyes and Orcollo fell in the round of 64 and last 32, respectively.

Bustamante came into the tournament riding high on his victory in the Ibis World Professional Billiard League championship in Winnipeg, Canada, last month. Cody[illegible] Rojas

DJANGO Bustamante finally completes his trophy collection.

Villa-Klose battle an interesting sidelight

JOHANNESBURG—THE WORLD CUP'S two most impressive strikers—David Villa and Miroslav Klose—will go head-to-head when European champion Spain meets three-time winner Germany in the semifinals Wednesday.

Villa leads the scoring chart with five goals in five games for Spain, while Klose has hit the target four times for Germany and needs one to join him and to pull even with the all-time Brazil forward Ronaldo as the top World Cup scorer of all time with 15 goals.

"It's difficult to compare them but both have shown great finishing qualities," Germany coach Joachim Low said.

KLOSE

Villa missed the 2008 European Championship final against Germany due to injury but still led that tournament with four goals. The 28-year-old forward is one goal away from matching Raul Gonzalez's Spanish record of 44 and is looking to connect his place as his country's greatest striker.

"He's left-footed, right-footed, technically gifted, he's almost as complete a player as Lionel Messi," Klose said, comparing Villa to the Argentina attacker.

"He's a player that you have to combat against with a whole team, not just one defender."

Whereas Villa has scored all but one of Spain's six goals at this tournament, Klose's four strikes represent less than a third of Germany's impressive 12-goal output.

Germany beat Australia 4-0 in its opening match, and had entered England 4-1 and Argentina 4-0 in its past two matches. AP

DAWAMEL

Crashes mar Tour—with more expected

SPA, BELGIUM—LANCE ARMSTRONG, 6-time Grandstar and nearly half of the riders in this year's Tour de France have already been involved in crashes after only two stages—and the casualty rate is about to get even worse.

Seven-time Tour champion Armstrong and his biggest rival Contador were caught up in a series of crashes Monday as scores of riders went down during a rainy second stage.

Most fell toward the end of the 207-kilometer ride from Brussels to Spa, as the Ardennes pass downhill, after a motorbike crashed and spilled oil minutes before the cyclists arrived.

Monday's first stage was also marred by several crashes, but all that could be nothing compared to what the bunch faces in Tuesday's 223.5-kilometer ride from Wanze, Belgium, to Arenberg Porte du Hainaut in France.

The stage features seven cobblestone sections on rainy roads, including four to the last 30 kilometers. More crashes are expected, to say, there will be 15.2 kilometers of cobbles.

"Going 'In The Carnage,'" Armstrong posted on Twitter after scouting out the stage.

"Tomorrow will have the most dirty, I just don't know who it's going to be. It could be Lance, could be Alberto, could be Andy Schleck," Garmin-Transitions team manager Jonathan Vaughters said.

Armstrong, who is fifth in the overall standings and Jersey Contador by five seconds, has the upper hand on his rival on the cobblestones.

Sylvain Chavanel of France won his second stage in the Tour stage victory Monday and took the race leader's yellow jersey off Swiss rider Fabian Cancellara who, like Armstrong and Contador, trailed 1:56 in the team pack. Armstrong placed 35th and Contador was 41st. AP

Change of leadership won't stop unifying race—POC

By Jane Manaore

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITtee spokesperson Joey Romasanta said yesterday the Olympic body will continue pushing for the unification race that will determine the country's riders for this year's Asian Games even after POC-recognized PhilCycling group ousted in Sunday, Arnaldo Tabuena.

The faction of Tabuena and PhilCycling president Abraham Tolentino agreed to hold a unification race on July 19 to 25 to determine the members of the national team, which will represent the country in the Guangzhou stand.

The POC was informed on Monday that Ricky Uriat, a cycling patron and member of the board, has replaced Tabuena as the group's head.

Tabuena is the other signatory to the memorandum of agreement also signed by Tolentino for the unification race after POC recognized PhilCycling group ousted in Sunday, Arnaldo Tabuena.

Romasanta said the development, the Asian Games chef de mission fears on the cancellation of the race (not promised) as many efforts in ensuring that Filipino riders will compete in the Nov 12 to 27 bund.

RACING Zone

SP TIP OF HORSE
Al Santa Ana Park

Race 1—(2nd YR)—Big Bang (1), Rahmig Shape (3), Tiger and Chairman (4), Getting Better (5).

Race 2—(Finish/2nd YR)—Bugsy's Pet (3), Peacemaker (2), Diana Princess (5), Smoke Mr. Spaghetti (1), Princess Erika (4)Details (6).

Race 3—(Penny/2nd YR)—Mr. Jealous (8), Bien Pogi (7), Kimbia (2), Real Excellent (1), Lady Diamond (3).

Race 4—(Penny/2nd YR)—Cornetto (12), Show Face (9), Into My Eyes (4), Tigane Liquito (2), Nobody Knows You Tu (10/Yours (8).

Race 5—(Penny/2nd YR)—Pot O'Gold (4), Kalimati (3), Mr. Integrity (5), Harold's Magic (7), Golden Hannah (11).

Race 6—(Penny/2nd YR)—Kim Possible/Red Powder (3), Rainbow (1), Lion in Miranda (5), Mr. Goodly Boy (6), Living Shore (8).

Race 7—Sweetpea (2)

SSC, Lyceum top Shakey's V-League picks

SHILEH

By Cedriff Tapas

WITH DEFENDING CHAMPION University of Santo Tomas taking a leave of absence, San Sebastian and Lyceum loom as the odds-on picks in the first conference of the Shakey's V-League Season 7 kicking off with a heavy three-game bill Sunday at the FILOIL Flying V Arena in San Juan.

San Sebastian, the youngest team on paper, takes on Lyceum at 2 p.m., while Arellano battles a fast Emerys U squad seeking to regain its status as one of the league's elite teams in the 4 p.m. duel.

National University vies to make an impact in its first conference in the league, collides with St. Benilde in the late game at 6 p.m.

"The competition is very good, basically the teams are evenly matched," said V-League operations chief Ricky Palou at the PSA Forum at the Shakey's UE Inn since in Manila.

Manny Manalac, chair of the organizing Sports Vision, said UST's absence could turn out to be a blessing in disguise since it will allow the other teams to take great their teeth in the league.

LADIES' CHOICE
1/16th Time P
Arena, San Juan
2 p.m.—Lyceum vs San Sebastian
vs. to—Arellano vs. NU
4 p.m.—SSC vs St. Benilde

Also seeing action in the tournament limited by Mighty Bond, Mikasa, FLEY MyDDL and Accel are Adamson and another newcomer, Perpetual Help, which has figured prominently in the NCAA tournament in recent years.

The five conference will also see some prominent players in the league cutting up for new teams with MC topping former UST wideout Sheila Santiago and Lyceum fielding Mary Jean Balse, a former V-League MVP with UST.

Tissue sample taken from Fischer remains

By Ray Lauren

A TISSUE SAMPLE WAS TAKEN FROM the remains of Bobby Fischer in Iceland Monday to determine whether the former world chess champion is really the father of a 6-year-old child.

According to custom Chessbase.com and other web reports, the Icelandic Supreme Court ordered the exhumation into the burial of the previous Hjord by Minister Snorri that Fischer, who died on Jan. 17, 2008 at the age of 64, was the father of then nine-year-old daughter Jinky.

Fischer's DNA sample will be tested only to the blood samples taken from Jinky when the mother and daughter went to Iceland to visit the grave of the eccentric genius in Selfoss, 60 km from capital city Reykjavik.

The reclusive Fischer gained prominence when he beat Russian Boris Spassky in 1972 to claim the world crown.

Fischer, the United States chess champion at 14, also fronted Spassky in their rematch in 1992 in the former Yugoslavia.

Other parties contending for Fischer's estate reportedly at around $3 million are Miyoko Watai, president of the Japan Chess Association whom Fischer married in 2004, and his nephews Alexander and Nicholas Targ.

If Jinky turns out to be Fischer's child, she'll get 75 percent of Fischer's estate with the rest going to Watai if her marriage to the late Targ is valid.

Lawyer Sunniva Rebeiz is representing Jinky Young in the inheritance claim.

Painters, Tigers dispute QF berth

Winner to clash with Derby Ace

By Mayvelyn B. Castillo

RAIN OR SHINE AND COCA-COLA TANGLE tonight for the last quarterfinal berth in the PBA Fiesta Conference, with the Elasto Painters hoping to repeat what they did in the previous tournament and the Tigers seeking payback.

Game time is 7 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. Usher settle both squads coming into the contest with high records after handling their opening assignments on the weekend phase.

The winner advances opposite No. 2 seed Derby Ace in a best-of-five quarterfinal series starting Friday.

Meanwhile, Purefoods' Rizal Purdo will announce his retirement of the league after the appointment of Lito Alvarez as commissioner of the Bureau of Customs.

Rain or Shine is treading the same path it took in the Philippine Cup where it beat the wildcard derby and took eventual champion Purefoods (now Derby Ace) into a close, two-game 5-in the quarterfinals.

And the Painters have all the tools they need to get there again, or even further.

Johnson Mercado, whom Jether Gil fired a heart attack Saturday morning in Sacramento, California, has opted to stay and lead the Painters.

On Sunday, a day after he learned of his ex-boss's condition, Mercado played his best game in a 91-89 victory over Air21, shooting 17 points but most importantly he made it happen.

SEE TOP: Meralco Tolosa | Tp n Chan or Sherwin Lina Cita

Coach Caloy Garcia had said that they would be willing to let Mercado go, but his stint reportedly showed marked improvement.

And Purdo will be the prime offensive option of the Painters, while John Williamson and Gary David will lead the Tigers, who have won four of their five games with Williamson second.

"It could be point-for-for us," Tigers coach Ely Pennell told reporters after Sunday after getting past Air 21. Limit to their 3rd wildcard assignment.

Eddy Maraviral will be a key element in Rain or Shine's game as he could be asked to put the nails on David.

RAIN Or Shine's Ryan Arana looks for the open man while Coca Cola's Gary David defends during their previous meeting. RAFFY RIVAS PHOTO

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Struggling Stags, Lions seek third NCAA wins

By Cedrik F. Tapay

DEFENDING CHAMPION SAN SEBASTIAN and powerhouse San Beda try to retain their lofty positions when they take on separate rivals today in the 86th NCAA basketball tournament at the FIBA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Stags seek their third straight win against the winless Arellano College Generals at 4 p.m., after the Red Lions dispose Candaba Inside.

Inside the Stags, who have struggled in their first two victories, the Red Lions have displayed sharp form, prompting coach Boyet Fernandez to consider them a shoe-in for the finals.

But San Beda coach Franklin Lim believes otherwise.

"We need to keep our focus," said Lim, who is weary of the threat posed by a veteran-laden Arellano squad.

"We've seen what they're capable of," Lim added, referring to the Generals, who crossed a two-and-big 79-65 victory in their season-opener against Perpetual Help.

Meanwhile, the brilliant Yeats, Sean Belga posted the most lopsided win of the tournament by crushing the Generals, 97-38, last Friday. Their victory came after the Lions registered a masterful 84-52 drubbing of Jose Rizal in opening day.

San Sebastian scraped past Lyceus (59-55) and Perpetual Help (73-69), two squads the Stags were expected to dominate.

"I keep on reminding the players that we are the defending champions and everyone is after our head," said Stags coach Art Aguilar.

RP 5 seizes second Seaba U-18 victory

SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE—HOBA-Filipinos notched its second straight victory in the Seaba Men's Under-18 championship, thrashing Myanmar, 109-39, yesterday at the Tiong Bahru Sec. School basketball court.

As in their 97-59 win over Malaysia on opening day last Monday, practically everybody in coach Eric Altamirano's 12-man contingent scored, with Edison 6 misses Rosario leading it over in the shaded lane to finish with 20 points and seven rebounds.

"The boys were both physically and mentally prepared, and they came very focused," said Altamirano.

Shooting guard Robbie Sarmiento hone with 19 points, including back-to-back triples which gave the Filipinos their biggest lead at 71, 106-36, with 2:33 left.

After shooting an efficient 4-of-6 from beyond the arc in the first game, Jessie Alvin Tong, Rainford Rosario, and Rachel Bernardo who chipped in 14 points each.

The three were scrounged by PSC president and presidential aide Jose "Peping" Cojuangco to the meeting. The source said one of the three sports personalities could replace outgoing chair Harry Angeles.

"There's no appointment yet but in two to three days, Malacañang will make the announcement," said the source.

Aside from hogging spotlight, the source said the three "cannot work. After being considered for one of those seats is full Tuesday of will-house.

Among the officials mentioned, Garcia is the most experienced when it comes to PSC operations, having served as commissioner during the terms of former presidents Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Meanwhile, the PSC has appropriated P40 million for the coming Asian Games.

"We have to be prudent in spending government money," said Angeles. "We must make sure that the athletes we will send stand a chance of bringing home a medal."

Garcia is next PSC chair?

By Jose Marquez

THERE WILL BE A NEW Philippine Sports Commission chair within the week, a source close to the Malacañang Palace said yesterday told the Inquirer.

The source said former PSC commissioners Ricardo Garcia, Philippine Olympic Committee deputy secretary general Buddy Encabo and commissioner Akiko Thomson Adachi are viewed for Malacañang yesterday and sure with executive secretary Paquito "Jojo" Ochoa.

SPORTSWATCH

'2M Rambulan' finals today

A 12 BIL OF 13 RESULTS IN TWO wins each and the championship field of the "2M LLC Small Time Plan Bulacan 3-Cock Derby" today at the San Juan Coliseum.

Among the top bidders are the entries of Tony Manfoni and Ernel San Juan, Jose Almonte, Joel Reyes, Alex San Pablo, Noel Rodolfo Pineda, Lito Nicasio Mallimgbayan and Jorge Arellano, Eric Dilag, Jhelo Ramualdez and Dargue.

Preparatory weighin today for the "Tito Boboi 1-Day Derby No.1" slated August and September. Interested pilots 6.5% million for monday bred only P8,000.

Call 7250630 and 7250631 for details.

'Bakasan' draws big Sold

AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE COCKFITS in Mindoro province "Bakasan Sa Pinoy 3-Cock Derby" on Friday at the Pinoy City Cockpit.

The event offers a guaranteed prize of at least P200,000 and has a derby fee of P1,800.

Hosts Gerry Mandigan, Jose Quindoza and Mina Pinoy confirmed the participation of reggies cockers from Pinoy Pinoy, Luz Pilar, Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Quezon City, Bulacan, Cavite and Batangas.

Official entries must be submitted to the secretary Zoom to 8 p.m. Call 8634-960, 8634-1180 or 934-57-60-5780.

Globe hosts CEO Inv't golf

GLOBE THROUGH ITS CORPORATE ARM Globe Business, recently hosted CEO Invitational Golf Tournament at the Wack Wack Golf Club in Mla. Area, Laguna.

Globe Business gave special awards to players with the overall accumulated and the longest drive, as well as two awards for golfers with the best scoring gross and the most improved handicap in the relief.

The event also marked the personalized service that Globe Business provides its customers. The exclusive event was the first of many events that Globe will be hosting for its leading corporate customers.

SWEEP Mia Rosas (fifth from left) displays his gold medal after leading the runners to sweep the Hanabusa Bike Marathon in Singapore. Major backer Pizza Hut hosted a celebration at Philippe's where they were joined by (from left) coaches Erick Santos, Pinoy Olympians Marestella Torres-Sunang, Edeliza Ponce, POC chief Jose Cojuangco, Pizza Hut's Gilberto Duque, bronze medalist Alvin Brenza and Erich Feliciano.

Brian learns his lessons

IN HUDDLE

Herb Cedric

PBA Chair Lito Alvarez was unable to attend yesterday's regular board meeting set 10 a.m. at the PBA offices in Libis, Quezon City.

At 9 a.m. yesterday, Lito's SUV was headed towards the opposite direction, the office of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima who was to administer the oath of office to the newly-appointed commissioners of the Bureau of Customs.

Lito had taken time to relay the good news. After the oath, Lito said he would immediately get to work since there was a lot to be done, starting with the turnover of outgoing commissioner Napoleon Morales. Lito said he will need to divest himself of all responsibilities in the PBA as well as in the Line Group of Companies where he is SVP president.

Although he admits he will miss the PBA, Lito would not hide his excitement over the new and bigger challenge that has come his way.

His priority, he said, is to improve the image of the agency. And he knows exactly how to do it, since he has been dealing with this agency for the past 20 years, in his capacity as president of Asi21 and the PBA. Prefix in the Line Group of Companies.

"But ultimate goal, of course, is to become a Hollywood," he said.

Among the officials mentioned, Garcia is the most experienced when it comes to PSC operations, having served as commissioner during the terms of former presidents Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Meanwhile, the PSC has appropriated P40 million for the coming Asian Games.

"We have to be prudent in spending government money," said Angeles. "We must make sure that the athletes we will send stand a chance of bringing home a medal."

Two tables were reserved for media and PBA celebrities during the debut of Dennis Pedrosa, daughter of Philippine Star writer Nelson and wife Fides.

Several around one table were PBA commissioner Jessie Bocobo and his staff and Rolling Stone Jun's Ryan Gregorio, Abet Bautista and Jimmy Ilag.

Comfortable and relaxed in the company of friends, Jason opened up some bit about his personal life.

"Multi-tila at," he said, referring to kids and kids who are hoping for a vacation in the United States.

Jason assured everyone that there was no third party on either side. He smiled when I intimated that the cause of the separation was probably very similar.

"It's not true that a group of Cebuanos are trying to unseat power from PSC chair Harry Angeles," was the reply of a former presidential spokesperson related to the alleged leader of the group. Nagging relationship problems, in spite of the good value he took over and has kept him floating since. He does not deserve that kind of treatment."

TOP 5th leg on today

A GOOF LAGUNA TIMES TO make off to Indonesia and leg in the Tournament of the Philippines (MB) leg morning today at the Ayala Alabang Golf Club's Course in Muntinlupa.

The Gough Runners, Inders suffering for a runner-up finish, open their bid against the defending Forward Tagaytay at 2:30 p.m.

Cobra, the second leg champion, tangle with MP Orlanes at 12 noon.

The opening ceremony of the leg hosted by travel and jointly organized by the PBL and Liga Filipinas is set at 12 p.m.

He blamed, the Most Valuable Player in the 3rd PBL conference, Jhanson Arevil's frustration, one that also includes veterans Edwin Asoro, Bob Labagala, Raymond Aguilar, Sean Co and Ben Gonzales.

Jeannine B. Rivera

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HOT AN EASY WAY TO SAVE P10
Unable to pay the P10 boat fare, a resident of Freedom Island in Parañaque City has no choice but to swim to the mainland in the wake of a boat where one of the passengers is carrying his change of clothes. (JOAN BONDOC)

Judge denies 'Alabang Boy's' petition for bail

By Julie M. Aurelio

A JUDGE HAS DENIED THE PETition for bail filed by one of the so-called "Alabang Boys" nearly two years after the three were arrested on drug-peddling charges.

In his July 1 order, Judge Aaron Bañaste of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 100 said the evidence Joseph Tesoro had presented in court to back up his petition—a denial of the accusation that he sold cocaine to a Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) agent—was weak.

"A denial, per jurisprudence, is a weak kind of evidence when arrayed against an affirmative and positive identification. In a bail petition, the main concern is whether the prosecution's evidence is strong and such positive identification of the accused is strong," Bañaste said.

He added that the defense's questioning of the PDEA administrative procedures could be fully explored during a court trial.

"In [the] the alleged noncompliance with certain administrative procedures by the PDEA team, the same will be assessed when the case is studied on the issue of guilt or innocence of the accused," the judge said.

Tesoro was arrested in September 2008 after he allegedly sold cocaine to Louie Valdez, a PDEA agent, in Cubao, Quezon City. Separate operations led to the arrest of Richard Rendero and Jorge Joseph for drugs in Ayala, Alabang.

LIM VS ATIENZA

Vote recount in Manila OKd

By Kristine L. Alave and Tina G. Santos

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) HAS MOVED for a recount of the manual votes cast in Manila on May 10 based on an electoral protest filed by losing candidate and ex-city Mayor Joselito Atienza.

According to Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal, the First Division has ordered the retrieval of ballot boxes and computer flash (ZIP) cards from precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines used in Manila, the first step in the recount of votes cast for Atienza and the man who beat him, Mayor Alfredo Lim.

"There was a hearing yesterday and we had a preliminary conference and part of the order is the collection and retrieval of the ballot boxes [provided the deposit is made to the Comelec]," Larrazabal told reporters yesterday.

'Best way'

The First Division, chaired by Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, said on July 5 that Atienza's **recount] protest should proceed, saying it was** the "best way of removing doubt or uncertainty involving the true will of the electorate."

Atienza earlier asked the poll body for a recount of the votes cast in all of Manila's 1,441 **clustered** precincts which had one ballot box each. He also urged Comelec to nullify Lim's proclamation.

Lim, who ran for a second term, received 395,396 votes against 351,894 for Atienza, the Comelec said.

Larrazabal said the Comelec had yet to formalize the computation of the deposit to be made by Atienza for his electoral protest, saying it would reach "millions" of pesos.

"The election materials are under the custody of the local Comelec.

Of the hundreds of electoral protests cases pending at the Comelec, Larrazabal said the Atienza-Lim case was the first to move for a revision of votes under the new rules for electoral protests.

Unlike in manual elections, the revision of votes could still be postponed based on an appeal filed by the protestee.

Since the First Division already denied Lim's request to junk Atienza's petition, Larrazabal said he could not see any impediments for a full revision of votes from Manila.

The revision of votes calls for a careful manual appreciation of every ballot cast to avoid **[an invalid vote, in the end of the process, the votes are counted again. The results are then]** used to override Comelec's previous tallies.

In the manual system used in past elections, the revision process called for representatives of both parties to analyze the ballots.

Under the new protest rules, the paper evidence will be augmented by digital evidence.

Larrazabal said the digital images of the ballots, which were stored in ZIP cards, would also be analyzed and compared with the paper ballots.

He added that the Atienza-Lim case would likely be the "test case" under the new protest rules which admits digital evidence due to the use of the automated election system.

Suit against Smartmatic

Sought for comment, retired Intelligence Justice Abdulwahid Palentac, one of Lim's lawyers, said the lawyer that they would file with the Comelec that seek a motion for reconsideration and a third party complaint against Smartmatic, which provided Comelec with the PCOS machines used in the elections.

"We want to bring in Smartmatic because it is in a better position to explain how the voting was done ... and the alleged fraud as claimed by Mr. Atienza. Mayor Lim had nothing to do with how the votes were cast, counted and canvassed," he said, adding that they would go all the way to the Supreme Court to prove their point.

Palentac added that they had already raised with the poll body the issue of Lim's [unannounced]de lead of over 200,000 votes over Atienza. He added that Atienza should also have questioned the alleged acts of fraud committed by Lim.

"What Mr. Atienza cited were general averments. He should have mentioned specific acts. Like if it's vote-buying, then who's the buyer, who's the seller, the date and time it supposedly happened, what consideration was given," he said.

7 cops charged with robbery, kidnap

By Julie M. Aurelio

A WOMAN TRADER HAS ACCUSED SEVEN policemen of arresting her husband on trump-up drug charges and then seeking money for his release.

In an affidavit filed the other day with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, Jennifer Lee charged Batasan police station commander Supt. Clemente Mondero and his men—SPO3 Eddie Reyes, SPO1 Ferdi Grajeda, PO3 Elvin Dino, Chief Insp. Arthur Cesar Abiang, PO3 Miguel Gayapay Jr. and PO1 Darwin Flores—with robbery, kidnapping, qualified theft, car theft and violation of domicile.

The respondents, Lee alleged in her complaint, arrested her husband John on trumped-up drug charges on June 23 and then asked her for money in exchange for downgrading his offense.

She said that earlier that day, her husband was on his way home when a Toyota

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(CONTINUED ON A22)

DID YOU KNOW

ON MARCH 14, 1898, Emilio Aguinaldo handed from Kawit, Cavite, to Andres Bonifacio's house in Manila to be initiated into the Katipunan.

Cyril L. Bonifacio, Inquirer Research

Pastor, ex-soldier nabbed with fake bills

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) announced yesterday the arrest of four persons, including a pastor and a retired Army man, in an entrapment operation involving the sale of fake US dollars in Quezon City.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring identified those arrested as Oyster Templo Bimbao, 59, of Bulacan, Quezon City; retired Army 1st Sgt. Orlando Datuguish, 58, of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija; Vicente Bonaventure, 63, of Buenos Aires; and Evelyn Jimenez, 49, a real estate broker, of Pinklad, Bulacan.

Mantaring said that agents of the NBI Office of the Intelligence Services rounded up the four in an entrapment operation on July 2 at a fast food restaurant in Cubao, Quezon City.

The operation was conducted following reports that the group was manufacturing and selling fake US dollars and other currencies.

An undercover agent who contacted the group said he was offered fake US dollars in different denominations amounting to $151,000.

The selling price was P900,000.

Biagko Bautista ng Pilipinas acting deputy director for the anti-Organized Alaja Gusto Lojo-Mejia, who was present during the press conference, said that the fake money made by the group would not have fooled any bank official.

Easy to spot

"They are only fool people who are not used to foreign currency or are not trained in spotting fake money," she told reporters.

"You can easily tell that they are fake by their texture. These are smoother than the real currency. These are actually not polished because the printing is dirty," she added.

Bautista said computer experts in the custody of the NBI pending the filing of charges of illegal possession and use of fake currency or bank notes and other instruments of credit under Article 168 of the Revised Penal Code with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

A NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agent shows fake US dollar bills said to be from four people involved in the manufacture and sale of counterfeit currencies in Quezon City. JAMES SAMSON

7 cops charged with robbery, kidnap

From page A1

Forrester blocked his path. Policemen dressed in civilian clothes arrested him and accused him of carrying two sachets of shabu.

He added that six policemen later barged inside their house in Barangay Sioco without a search warrant to look for hidden drugs.

Soy said the policemen then asked her for P5 million in exchange for charging her husband with a lesser offense.

They then lowered the amount to P1 million but first told the deal not give the policemen any money because she believed her husband was innocent.

Her refusal led to the filing of charges against her husband who remains in police custody, she added.

Her also claimed that the policemen still had in their possession her husband's Black Pajero worth P1.4 million, a Rolex watch, P10,000 in cash, cell phones worth P20,000, and a wallet containing his credit and assessment teller cards.

METROBRIEFS

Fingerprinting seminar for Marikina police

CRIMINALS will soon have a much harder time covering their tracks in Marikina City. Investigators at the Marikina Police Department are teaching the science of fingerprinting in order to solve crimes and catch perpetrators more quickly and efficiently, officials said yesterday. Members of the Marikina police's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) recently attended a seminar on the "Scientific Method of Processing Fingerprints and Crime Scene Investigation" conducted by Japanese and Philippine crime laboratory authorities. Marikina officials said the activity, which would run until November, was jointly spearheaded by the Japan International Cooperating Agency and the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory. Marikina CID members composed the first batch of participants in the seminar, officials said. "The activity aims to enhance investigators' skill in connecting the victim and suspect to the crime scene and to the physical evidence left behind, enabling them to provide compelling testimony based on scientific facts," said Marikina CID chief Earl Sandillo. **EJ Tal**

2 workers electrocuted

TWO WORKERS died of electrocution as they were setting up scaffolding at a building under construction in Makati City, yesterday afternoon. The police identified the two as Jonathan Tacoma and Ronald Sanchez, both workers of RR Construction Co. They were working on the third floor of a building on Esteban Street when one of the 13-foot pipes they were holding came into contact with a live electrical wire, PO3 Marlon Medronio of the Makati police said. **Willie Calliza**

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Province of Cebu

GOODS and SERVICES COMMITTEE - GOODS and SERVICES

INVITATION TO BID

P.R. No.	Sub. No.	Particulars	Purchase Date	A.B.C.	Bid Fee
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (G) Non-Trading (BULK)	[illegible]	P [illegible]	P [illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (G) Non-Trading (BULK)	[illegible]	P [illegible]	P [illegible]

* This invited a copy of the Bid shall be submitted upon bid opening.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders should have completed a similar contract contained by the Bidder during the period of [illegible] as stated hereinafter to the Committee on Goods and Services.

Bidding documents may be purchased from the Committee on Goods and Services upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bid Documents in the amount stated above.

Bidders should comply with the requirements of the Bidding Documents within the period of the validity of their Bids.

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1	Publication of Bid Opportunity	[illegible]
2	Pre-Bid Conference	[illegible]
3	Submission & Opening of Bids	[illegible]
4	Post-qualification (Evaluation of Bids)	[illegible]
5	Post-qualification (Evaluation of Bids)	[illegible]
6	Notice of Award	[illegible]
7	Signing of Contract / Notice to Proceed	[illegible]

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Committee on Goods and Services and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during [illegible] from [illegible] to [illegible].

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of [illegible]. It may be purchased from the Committee on Goods and Services and upon submission of a written request to the Chairman of the Committee. A bid security in the form of a [illegible] shall be required for the Bid. Bids must be delivered on or before [illegible] at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a sworn statement, among others, as required in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders shall submit only the quantity being offered for the entire contract. Partial bids are not allowed.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Approved by:

[illegible]
Chairman

Elite cadre of Afghan cops deployed in Kandahar

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN— There's a new cop in this Taliban stronghold where smuggler, insurgents and power brokers rule and a new influence than the Afghan government.

Nearly 800 members of Afghanistan's most elite police unit have arrived in Kandahar to help staff new checkpoints—one of the first visible signs of Nato's drawdown campaign-weary Afghan forces is setting up security in the country's largest city in the south.

The Afghan National Civil Order Police, partnered with international forces, are manning 11 new checkpoints around the clock. By August, their members will more than double in the re-enlisted Afghan force a security perimeter around the city.

In the same time, thousands of Kabul and Afghan troops are streaming into Kandahar province in just-over-annual operations to assist Farid Ahmad. The strategy is to flood the area with police and troops, root the militants and rush in new government development projects and security to win the loyalty of the city's hard-to-please residents.

With the temporary, well-manned Aarops in place, 800 members of Kandahar's current police force are being deployed for six weeks of training that hopefully will yield a more professional, less corrupt police force.

"If we train the police on how they should behave and communicate with the local people, they can help them rather than make problems for them. I hope this training will solve the problem we have with the local people," said Sardar Mohammad Zaazi, the police chief of Kandahar.

Nationwide, complaints against the police include clubbing drivers unwilling to stop at checkpoints, shakedowns itself, pilfering supplies and impersonating militias, according to a report released last month by the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction.

Kandahar resident Imran Khan, who works for the local Islamic department, said the police were overworked because of ongoing violence.

"Hopefully they are going to come back better after their training—that the corruption can be controlled," he said.

Nilofar Khan, a college student in the city said the public believed the local police have one ally with corruption.

"The people of Kandahar are hopeful that after they get the training they will know how to treat the people, how to search and it will reduce the amount of corruption," he said.

The security campaign has been moving slower than expected because of the Taliban's deep roots in the area, rising ethnic corruption and a public that doubts the Afghan government officials can provide enough social services to justify the sacrifices.

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The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

Oil slick spreads to all Gulf states

TEXAS CITY, TEXAS—A BUCKET'S WORTH OF tar balls that hit a Texas beach means that crude oil has now washed up in every US state on the Gulf of Mexico, more than two months after oil gushing from a blown-out well on the ocean floor first reached Louisiana.

The oozie is still moving, but the first of skimmers tapped to clean the waves hit areas of the Gulf is not. A string of small storms has made the water too choppy for the boats to operate for more than a week off Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

The number of tar balls discovered in Texas is tiny compared with what has soiled beaches so far in other Gulf states. Still, the discovery provoked the quick dispatch of cleaning crews and a vow that oil company BP will pay for the trouble.

"Any Texas shore impacted by the Deepwater spill will be cleaned up quickly and BP will be picking up the tab," Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said in a news release.

The oil's arrival in Texas was predicted on Friday by an analysis from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which gave a 40-percent chance of crude reaching the area.

"It was just a matter of time that some of the oil would find its way to Texas," said Hans Graber, a marine physicist at the University of Miami and a director of the Center for Southeastern Tropical Advanced Remote Sensing.

Tar balls were found on Saturday on the Bolivar Peninsula, northeast of Galveston, said Capt. Marvin Wendling, the Coast Guard commander for the Houston/Galveston sector. Blues were found on Sunday on the peninsula and Galveston Island, though tests have not yet confirmed the oil's origin.

Wendling said the consistency of the tar balls indicated those could have been spread to Texas waters by ships that have worked out in the spill. But there's no way to confirm how they got there.

Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski said he believed the tar balls were a fluke, rather than a sign of what's to come.

"This is good news," he said. "The water looks good. We're cautiously optimistic this is an anomaly."

Hurricane "Alex," which blew through the Gulf last week and made landfall along the border between Texas and Mexico, may have played a small role in bringing the oil ashore in Texas by increasing the westerly currents near land. But it was more likely due to normal coastal currents and local weather patterns.

The distance between the western reach of the tar balls in Texas and the most eastern reports of oil in Florida is about 600 kilometers. Oil was first reported on land near the mouth of the Mississippi River on April 28.

The spill is reaching deeper into Louisiana. Strings of oil were seen on Monday in the Rigolets, one of two waterways that connect the Gulf with Lake Pontchartrain, the large lake north of New Orleans.

"So far, it's scattered and showing up, mostly tar balls," said Louisiana Office of Fisheries Assistant Secretary Randy Pausina. "It will pull out with the tide, and then show back up."

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said more would be deployed to protect the Lake Pontchartrain outflows.

Pausina said he expected the oil to clear the passes and move directly into the lake, ruling a backdoor route in New Orleans.

Most of the offshore skimming operations in the Gulf have been halted by choppy seas and high winds. Officials have plans for the worst-case scenario: a hurricane barreling up the Gulf toward the spill site. But the less dramatic weather conditions have been met with a more makeshift response.

Skimming across the Gulf has scooped up about 80 million liters of oil-fouled water so far, but officials say it's impossible to know how much crude could have been soaked up to good weather because of the fluctuating number of boats and other variables.

Jerry Higgs, a commercial fisherman in Pass Christian, Mississippi, who has had to shut down because of the spill, is now hiring out his 13-boats and 40-man crew to BP for cleanup. He said skimming was severely hampered by the weather.

"This isn't going away. This isn't a season or a hiccup. This is diarrhea for a long time," he said. "My lifestyle is screwed. It's over. The thing that I love dearly. I'm not going to be able to do anymore."

The British company has now seen its costs from the spill reach $3.12 billion, a figure that doesn't include a $20 billion fund for damages the company reached last month.

The excess have not affected drilling yards on a relief well that BP says is the best chance for finally plugging the hole. The company expects drilling to be finished by mid-August.

AP

BRAIN Ferst, who is helping in cleanup efforts, stands on oil-smeared rocks along the beach front in Port Fourchon, Louisiana.

ICE CAKE FOR PANDAS
A cake made of ice and fruits provides giant pandas a welcome relief from the sweltering summer at a wildlife park in Shanghai.

China rejects US plea for release of geologist

BEIJING—CHINA ON TUESDAY rejected US criticism of its treatment of an American geologist who was sentenced to eight years in prison for spying and collecting state secrets.

The US Embassy issued a statement calling for Xue Feng's immediate release and deportation to the United States after he was sentenced on Monday.

US Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman attended the court hearing to show Washington's interest in the case.

Xue was punished for gathering data on China's oil industry in violation of vague secrecy laws the government uses to restrict business information.

During Xue's detention which started in November 2007, Chinese state security agents subjected to exposures on his arms.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Qin Gang told a news conference on Tuesday that Xue's rights were fully guaranteed and the case was China's internal affair.

"Do you think we should release him without any charges and then people will say the judicial system is fair and transparent?" Qin asked. "The rights of the defendant were fully guaranteed."

He called the case an internal affair that "frankly no foreign interference."

Monday's verdict said the 45-year-old, China-born Xue received documents on geological conditions of onshore oil wells and a database that gave the coordinates of more than 80,000 oil and gas wells belonging to China National Petroleum Corp. and listed subsidiary PetroChina Ltd.

The Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court said that information was sold in 200 for a US consultancy Xue worked for and nine former in Hong Kong Inc.

Chinese officials have wide authority to classify information as state secrets. Beijing Xue's closed-door trial, the court's sentencing document said he defended himself, arguing that the information he gathered "is data that the oil sector in countries around the world make public."

AP

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- Manila port generated P26.9B in H1 revenue /B8

Editor Raul G. Manuelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Section 2

Inflation eased to 3.9% in June

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

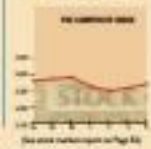
July 6, 2010

46.400

STOCK MARKET

July 6, 2010

23.97



Stocks post marginal gains

LOCAL STOCKS EXTENDED UP FOR a second straight day yesterday as financial markets welcomed the possibility that an ally of newly installed PH president Aquino could direct the House speakership.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 23.97 points or 0.72 percent to close at 3,286.79, as investors welcomed prospects that the new President will find sufficient legislative backing given reports that Ronnie Zamora Ong Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, a recent convert to Aquino's Liberal party, could emerge as the next Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Most indices were up as modest gains swept to the building firm counters. Trading volume, however, was still anemic at P2.25 billion, reflecting the cautious global investor sentiment.

Belmonte's potential speakership is seen not only giving a legislative boost to the fledgling Aquino presidency but also possibly some stabilizing factor even if his predecessor Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is back in Congress. The return to another throne of impeachment at the time," said Joseph Pisano, president of the call brokerage Eagle Equities Inc.

There were 67 advancers as against 59 decliners and 68 unchanged stocks.

PHOTOS BY

Average rate for first six months at 4.2%

By Norma V. Dominguez

THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES SLOWED to a six-month low of 3.9 percent year-on-year in June as most commodity groups showed abating price hikes, according to the National Statistics Office.

This put the average inflation from January to June at 4.2 percent, which was still within the monetary authorities' target range of between 3.5 and 4.5 percent for this year.

Still, the rise in the cost of living in June was more than twice as fast as the 1.5 percent recorded in the same month of 2009.

Last month, the price increases for food, beverage and tobacco were recorded at 3.1 percent, the same level as in May.

All the other five sub-groups showed slower growths, with services showing the biggest decline at 3.9 percent from 5.6 percent previously.

Price increases for fuel, light and water continued to abate since hitting 10 percent in April, settling at 15.6 percent in June.

Slower price gains were also observed in clothing (3.9 percent in June from 4.1 percent in May), housing and repairs (3.6 percent from 3.7 percent), and miscellaneous items (3.3 percent from 3.5 percent).

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said yesterday that the June inflation rate fell in the lower end of the BSP's forecast range of 3.8-4.7 percent for the month.

"This inflation path therefore puts the full-year inflation targets for 2010 and 2011 fairly safe, and thus provides BSP the flexibility when we review the stance of monetary policy next week," the BSP chief said.

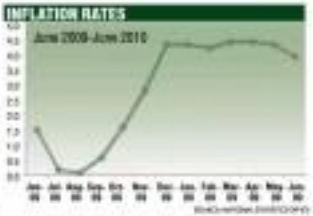
The BSP aims to keep inflation between 3.5 and 5.5 percent this year and between 3 and 5 percent in 2011.

Tetangco added that negative news from Europe seemed to have abated, translating to reduced volatility in the international commodity and foreign exchange markets.

"Nevertheless, we will have to continue to be mindful of dormant conditions on the demand

INFLATION /B3

INFLATION RATES



Napocor seeks rate hike anew

By Amy R. Remo

TWO WEEKS AFTER IT FILED for a rate increase, state-owned National Power Corp. has again sought authority to raise its electricity rates in the three main grids, according to petitions filed before the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Napocor is seeking an increase of 18.07 centavos a kilowatt-hour (kWh) in Luzon; 30.16 centavos a kWh in the Visayas; and 47.16 centavos a kWh in Mindanao, under the TSAs installment of the Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM).

The government firm also wanted to raise rates in Luzon by another 4.81 centavos a kWh; 3.26 centavos a kWh in the the Visayas; and 3.83 centavos a kWh in Mindanao under the 16th billing of the Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (Icera).

GRAM is a mechanism that allows utilities such as Napocor to recover costs associated with fuel and purchased power, while the Icera allows utilities to recover foreign exchange related costs.

According to the applications covering the January-to-April 2010 period, Napocor is seeking to recover within four months some P1.61 billion in deferred fuel and independent power producer costs in Luzon, P760.6 million in the Visayas and P1.44 billion in Mindanao.

The state-run firm also wanted recovery within four months the P500 million in foreign exchange costs for Luzon, P63.61 million in the Visayas and P137.3 million in Mindanao under its Icera application.

The two applications for testing the state firm's generation and foreign exchange charges for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids were jointly filed by Napocor and the state-run Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

Once the ERC approves the applications, the new 17th GRAM and 16th Icera will replace the current charges being implemented in the three main grids.

As of the filing, Napocor is implementing the 12th GRAM charges in Luzon and none for the Visayas. It is also implementing the 11th Icera charges in Luzon and 8th Icera charges in Visayas. No GRAM and Icera charges are being imposed on electricity consumers in Mindanao as Napocor

NAPOCOR /B3

20-year treasury bonds fetch 8.521%

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERday raised P6.5 billion from the sale of 20-year treasury bonds and has opened a tap facility to double the amount as buyers scrambled for long-term debt paper.

The yield on the 20-year securities fell 28.6 basis points to an average 8.521 percent during yesterday's auction.

Buyers flooded the offer with tenders totaling P103.92 billion, or more than twice the original offer.

With the favorable yield, National Treasurer Roberto R. Tan said buyers could avail themselves of another P6.5 billion over the counter through the tap facility.

The said transactions made through the tap facility may be settled from 9 am to 3 pm today.

Asked if the auction results indicated investor confidence in the newly installed Aquino administration, the Treasury chief said "yes".

Tan said the results also showed investor sentiment on reports of good economic fundamentals, referring to the 0.9 percent inflation rate recorded in June.

Also adding to the market's liquidity was some P1.5 billion worth of maturing treasury bills this week.

In a related development, First Metro Investment Corp. and Unicapital Securities Inc. sources said in a paper rise inflation was likely in the 4.2 percent year-on-year in July, given the lack of inflationary pressures from external and internal sources.

According to the report, the rise in commodity prices would

Inflation eased to 3.9% in June

Vacancy: MB members wanted

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ONE SEAT ON THE much-coveted Monetary Board may soon be up for grabs as one of its incumbent members is expected, by being considered to make room for another crucial post—that of president and general manager of the Government Service and Insurance System to replace Winston Garcia. As an ex officio, the GSIS is a very powerful institutional seat for shareholder representation during De Guzman's reign. Remember, President Aquino has already given a hint, saying that the incoming GSIS head will be a former banker. Ding ding-ding!

Meanwhile, returning Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima is also expected to emerge as the Monetary Board's ex officio government representative. And like the good old days. [Isabel C. Paredes]

Mini-reshuffle at BPI

JOSE Teodoro Limcaoco, formerly CEO of BPI Capital Corp., has recently taken over the helm of BPI Family Savings Bank while his predecessor, Aurora "Pepi" Tuliao-de, has been transferred to the parent bank to handle corporate banking. The new posts are a promotion for both executives.

The Ayala group is eyes on the bank race for an investment banker to fill the void at BPI Capital. Its vice president, Beatriz Siu Catalina, serves as acting chief for now. Meanwhile, other BPI executives like BPI unit manager Antonio Picazo are being given more responsibilities in the bank.

The country's most valuable bank has a deep bench for CEO succession—if and when current president Aurelio Montinola III (who was also president of BPI Family Bank) retires (in two years) or will go into greater semi-retire (in a part-time executive role, of course. [Isabel C. Paredes]

That letter V

TEDY Brul must Cabinet posts have been filled the growing game has moved to the politicized appointments at government-owned-and-controlled corporations (GOCCs) and sub-department bureaus.

One particular GOCC that has attracted a lot of interest is Bagumbayan Bank of the Philippines (BBP), which has played a key role in tabulating the previous administration in handling infrastructure projects.

According to sources, former banker Eusebio A. Gonzalez, a die hard supporter from the core of BBP's president, Gonzalez had strong ties to Equitable Bank and worked for Indonesian's Lippo Group in its attempt to penetrate the local banking scene in the 1990s. He ran for Congress a few years ago (for the third district of Tarlac, but lost to fellow ex-banker Ayik Lapus.

By the way, his middle name "V" stands for Aquino. [Isabel C. Garcia]

Flawed FO

THE CLAMOR for the Aquino administration to retrofit EO 877-A (the Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Development Program) is gaining momentum. At the heart of the argument is the delayed "finest" publication of the EO, dated June 2, 2010. As required by the Administrative Code, publication is a requirement before rules and regulations and other government issuances would take effect.

In the case of the controversial EO, to critics point out that the text of the law as published in two national newspapers (not the Inquirer) shows two different signatories—one version bears the signature of former executive secretary Eduardo Ermita, while the other shows the name of Leandro Mendoza, who was PGMA's executive secretary neither were model on June 30. As to how Ermita got in the picture to the subject of much debate and speculation since the resignation of Mendoza as executive secretary as early as February when he decided to run for Congress. How then, critics ask, can a resigned executive secretary be a signatory to an EO dated June 3, 2010, without the same being questioned for such glaring irregularity? [Isabel C. Paredes]

Unrugo like the Star Trade Alliance (STA) have been pointing out that, apart from questions of merit and necessity, EO 877-A suffers from numerous flaws due to lack of proper study and consultations. Aside from allowing importation, the group said that letting only the tariff necessary and providing excessive subsidies to an industry that has been for not many years even, are unjustified. If ALMA help that the EO's counterpart was allegedly "tucked" by Malacañang and the Board of Investments just days before the Aquino administration turned over control.

The explosive in terms of Ermita's name, it being a typographical error or a plain oversight, is the less proud of the hand of slippery and rush work that stood behind the enactment of the EO, which many say is ripe for the Aquino administration's scrutiny and recall, according to its critics. [Isabel C. Garcia]

No joke

MAKATI's joke going around that media practitioners in government networks don't find funny.

Apparently, two days before the inauguration of President Rodrigo Duterte as Japan's 13th prime minister, Abe invited via SMS) that government ministers and information agencies will be assigned since the new prime minister already enjoys positive coverage from major networks.

"We are hearing reportedly considering their [Abe's] second 4-country video after the late President Cory [Aquino] was in power," one official was to said.

How low-history is a raging bonfire between the employees-unions of the National Broadcasting Network (NBN-4), the People's Television Employees Association (PTEA) and the unionized management, which union members say have been stifled during martial rule "benefits."

"For nine years, the Aquino administration has been hanging on the back of it pack to run the network and combating violations made by the dictatorship," said PTEA president Ernesto Abella at income tax, GSIS premiums and loan payments, Big-ESK and Philhealth payments were not remitted to the proper authorities. This led to the filing of a case which remains pending with the Office of the Ombudsman since 2013, the union said with a letter sent to Ombudsman Aquino, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer.

The union also said that most workers have to go back and forth to claim their benefits and are having trouble with their GSIS premium claim to the post-employment files.

In a public rally, the union members Rolando Reyes, head of NBN-4's Council of Autonomous Unions, as well as network president manager Jose S. Isidro Jr., replaced.

"We implore your administration to undertake a thorough audit of NBN, and "hold liable those who are using members of Rolando Reyes' and Jose Isidro's management team," the union said. [Jose T. Orbeta-dor]

Did business start to end a premium of the hour the evening before? Comment: Tel. (02) 892 HUNDRED (+ 440 (02) 30 stars)

20-year treasury bonds . . .

From page B1

inch up from a proposed 6.1 percent in June to 6.5 percent in September.

Also, DMC and Unilab said the budget deficit would "slow down in the third quarter[which] will encourage the government to accelerate spending," considering that Malacañang had announced a deficit cap for the year.

The Bureau of the Treasury has announced that it plans to issue P187.5 billion worth of government securities in the third quarter, about 3 percent less than the P193.5 billion worth of P183.8 billion in the same period last year.

Bernard M. Ilustrisimo

Napocor seeks rate hike . . .

From page B1

ton already fully recovered these charges.

Napocor's effective rates are pegged at P 4.305 a kWh in Luzon, P4.1113 a kWh in the Visayas and P 2.987 a kWh in Mindanao.

Later month, Napocor filed its application for the ERC-GRAM to readjust, in which it sought an increase of 62.51 centavos a kWh in Luzon, 9.73 centavos a kWh in the Visayas and 11.22 centavos a kWh in Mindanao.

Under the ERC rules (amended, Napocor also sought to raise rates in Luzon by an additional 0.68 centavos a kWh, 7.04 centavos kWh in the Visayas and 3.89 centavos per kWh in Mindanao.

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Stocks post marginal gains

The US Independence Day holiday has kept markets range-bound, although there was a general risk-off bias already expected to affect sentiment on Asian issues, according to investment bank Credit Agricole CIB.

The local stock market is seen building support above the crucial 3,300 mark. Investors picked up shares of PLDT, EDC, DMCI Holdings, Semirara, Metrobank and Bank Land.

David C. Dumlao

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BUSINESS 2nd of 2

Gov't gets ₱490M from Galoc field consortium

Oil field found commercially viable

By Amy R. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED P490 million from the consortium operating the Galoc oil field in offshore Palawan, representing the state's eighth share from oil sales generated under Service Contract (SC) 14C.

Energy Undersecretary Jeanne Allan Ong said the amount, collected as of June 30, would go to the national coffers.

It was in August last year that the Galoc consortium first received in the government $170,000 (roughly ₱7.65 million), following its declaration in June 2009 that the oil field was commercially viable.

The declaration—which signaled the completion of the extended testing period—also confirmed that the field's reservoir had enough volume for long-term production.

In a consequence, the Basil letter gov-erning the Galoc project laws reverted to the standard terms of SC 14C. The terms protect proponents' new lines to recoup the windfall to the government.

Of the oil field's gross sales, 78 percent would go to investors in the service contract to recover costs and expenditures, and the remaining 38 percent would be divided between the government and the contractor under a 60/40 sharing agreement.

Galoc Production Co. (GPC) holds a 59.84-percent working interest in the SC 14C license, while Nido Petroleum Philippines Pty Ltd. has a 22.26-percent stake. Other stakeholders in the service contract are Philodril Corp., Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp., Limapcor Oil Gas and Power Corp., and Forum Energy Philippines Corp.

Ong also said the proponents were planning to do additional exploration work within the service contract area to raise production at the Galoc oil field. He said daily oil production had already gone down to some 8,000 barrels of oil per day from the previous 15,000 bopd.

Over the past few months, the consortium has been undertaking studies for the second phase of development of the Galoc oil field, as total oil production already reached about half of the wells' estimated oil reserves as of April 2010.

Market seen to continue rise

Threat of volatility due to financial woes overseas remains, study says

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL STOCKS STILL HAVE HOME ROOM to rise, given good corporate profits, solid economic fundamentals, and market optimism on the new administration, according to a joint research by First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

However, investors are warned against possible volatility caused by the lingering woes overseas.

In the latest issue of their joint publication, "The Market Call," FMIC-UAAP said that while the local bourse had "decoupled" from overseas carbonclaise in the second quarter, investors should always keep a good measure of caution. As the local market cannot completely get away from the precautionary developments overseas, FMIC-UAAP said "investors should not be fully invested all the time."

"The positive environment in the Philippine economy and equity market will likely continue to attract funds into the country in the near term in spite of uncertainties abroad, solid economic fundamentals and good corporate earnings will keep the local market attractive," FMIC-UAAP said.

The publication said positive profits and fundamentals were expected to keep the bullish album, adding that the country's next gross domestic product growth target for the year of about 6.6 percent, an increase from the previous 2.6-3.6 percent target range, means that a positive backdrop for the local market would remain intact.

"Having a new Philippine president will also feed market sentiment depending on his ability to execute his economic and political agenda," the publication said.

Stock prices have historically moved higher by 15 percent about 12 months after a presidential election, the FMIC-UAAP report noted.

"Philippine investors should not abandon caution as developments abroad may shake domestic market sentiment," it said.

The report warned that euphoria and high expectations from the Aquino presidency might arise at a high price.

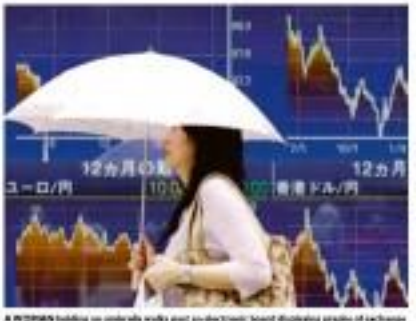
"In our opinion, Aquino's win mirrors that of Obama's in 2008, with its attendant euphoria and high expectation. Sadly, the performance of the current US president has been below expectation so far, and the Americans are starting to lose faith in him. Thus, it would be wise to lower expectations until concrete signs of progress by the new government emerge," the report said.

It said that the "V" shaped cyclical recovery under way in most parts of the world served as constructive backdrop for the global equity markets. However, it noted that the volatility associated with risky assets in the recent quarter may be a reminder of recurring market risks in the ongoing recovery.

Year-to-date, the performance of most global equity indices have fallen into negative territory as uncertainties and bearish assessment spooked various markets. But in the case of the main share Philippine Stock Exchange Index, local equity price remained strong and the index outperformed most global equity indices.

Since the start of the year, the main share index has risen by 9.3 percent as of yesterday's closing of 7,335.71.

In 2000, the index was up by 61 percent, but the European Bond crisis spoiled the successful at the start of the year.



A PEDIPAN holding an undentable walks past an electronic board displaying graphs of exchange rates outside a brokerage in Tokyo on July 1, 2015. Japanese policymakers said on Tuesday they were closely watching falling share prices and recent rises in yen, which are clouding the outlook for the export-reliant economy's fragile recovery.

CEB cuts fares to Osaka, Brunei

BUDGET AIRLINE Cebu Pacific has announced another seat sale to promote two of its newest international routes.

In a statement, the company said it would run to half June to Osaka, Japan and to the Kingdom of Brunei Darussalam for flights by June 5. Aug. 1 and Dec. 31 this year. The discounted tickets will be on sale on June 9 to 11.

Manila to Brunei fares are 40 percent less at P3,499 while Manila to Osaka are 50 percent lower at P2,999. The promo seats will be launched on Aug. 11.

The company said its CEB's Osaka flights achieved a 62 percent year-on-year growth, lasted to January-May passengers figures for 2009 and 2014. The airline continues to fly Osaka three times weekly using its aircraft fleet, which is one of the youngest in Asia.

"We are very happy with the success of our Manila-Osaka route, and are hoping to promote both Osaka and Brunei further to our business and leisure customers," Cebu Pacific vice president for marketing and distribution Candice Iyog said.

"Cebu Pacific is also looking into developing into Cebu hub further for more international routes. In the meantime, we hope we can encourage even more passengers to take direct flights to and from Cebu with this special sale," she said. Paolo G. Montecillo

Gold Fields starts drilling in new zone

By Rina T. Delmendo

MINDORO RESOURCES LTD.'S (MRL) partner, Gold Fields of South Africa, has started drilling in a newly discovered gold zone at the Lobo Project in Batangas.

In a report, Canadian miner MRL said Gold Fields drilling commenced in the Ulupang-Tamaraw epithermal gold zone at the Lobo Project.

Lobo is one of the three projects comprising the Batangas joint venture, where the South African miner may gain up to 75 percent interest through sole funding subject to expenditure limits.

MRL said soil gold values, estimated at up to 0.5 gram of gold per ton, "suggest robust mineralization in zones remain open at surface."

It also said that other areas with high gold concentrations were discovered in other zones of the Lobo Project.

In May, MRL announced it had signed a memorandum of agreement with a member of South Africa-based Gold Fields Group of Companies for the Talahib, Lobo Gate, and El Pase projects.

In each project, the South African company has committed $2 million for the initial phase of exploration and development, which covers drilling and follow-up geochemical surveys.

MRL Gold Philippines president James Anthony Clerici said in February that joint venture deals reduced MRL's interest in the Batangas projects significantly.

However, Clerici said, MRL is more interested in keeping its projects "moving along."

Philex 7-month earnings hit P5.1B

PHILEX MINING CORP. IS GENERATING more revenues from lower ore shipments due to rising metal prices.

In a statement, Philex said the net mined value of its shipments this year increased even though the company had made only six shipments from January to July this year, from seven shipments a year ago.

Philex's ore shipments for the first seven months of 2014 amounted to P5.13 billion, up 13.2 percent from P4.57 billion in the same period last year.

This year's ore deliveries amounted to 38,958 dry metric tons (DMT) of ore compared to 31,848 DMT from seven shipments in January to July 2014.

In the meantime, Philex's output for the first semester reached P5.16 billion from P4.54 billion a year ago.

Based on the firm's disclosures, ore output from the Padcal mine in Benguet reached 3.46 million DMT in the first half of the year from 4.08 million DMT a year ago.

Rina T. Delmendo

DISCLOSURES

PHILEX (Philex Synthetic) Corp. announced the buyback of 11,000 shares at P15.18 each on June 29, in line with the company's share buyback program.

VMWARE Equities Inc. has bought back 100,000 shares at P1.44 per share on July 1, in line with the company's share buyback program.

SLIMF Telecom Inc. disclosed on June 29 the appointment of Ji Feidan Xi Qianlei as CIC for corporate and legal services group. He will be replacing Ms. Caridad O. Gonzalez, who will be retiring from the company effective June 30.

ABSLI Corp. has disclosed the retirement of Jose Pere S. Alimentos as managing director and member of the Ayala Group management committee effective June 29.

MABUL Water Co. Inc. has disclosed the resignation of Jose Perez D. Alimentos as president and director of the company effective June 29. The company also disclosed the appointment of Emanuel C. Bilbao Jr. as president and chief executive officer of the company effective June 29.

INTEGRATED Micro-Electronics Inc. has disclosed the resignation of Cesar V. Purisima as a member of the board of directors and of the finance committee effective June 29.

BELLE Corp. disclosed on July 1 the resignation of Gregory L. Domingo as company director.

ENDPHIL Corp. disclosed on July 1 the resignation of Ulrich B. Bonito as company director. Compiled by Adrian Quindala, ENCHANTED Research

BUSINESS

Manila port generated P26.9B in H1 revenue

By Reuseil W. Dominguez

THE PORT OF MANILA (POM) collected revenue of P26.9 billion in revenue during the first semester, exceeding the target of P25.12 billion by 27 percent.

POM district collector Rupil Gutchalian said in a statement that revenue collected from January to June also exceeded last year-ago figures by 32 percent.

Gutchalian said the port was the focus of Customs's top performance in the last half, outperforming monthly targets for six straight months.

BOC's top performer exceeded targets for six straight months

The port's P6.76-billion revenue surplus, or excess over the target, represented purely cash collections, as opposed to non-cash revenues such as tax subsidies, Gutchalian said.

The POM surplus is also "equivalent to 66 percent of the surplus collection of the BOC," he added.

Preliminary data from the BOC showed that the bureau collected P23.7 billion in June, higher than the target of P22.9 billion.

This put BOC revenue in the first semester at P131.23 billion, higher than the programmed collection of P124 billion.

The BOC met five of its monthly targets in the first half. The exceptions were February, when billions of tax subsidies fell.

Last week, Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez yesterday said his department—the parent agency of the BOC—would play a key role in President Rodrigo's Oplan 28's campaign against corruption.

Dominguez said the BOC is key to the vision of reducing corruption that economic poverty, especially in the services-generating agencies.

"We will ... implement more vigorously the existing programs against tax evasion, and corrupt revenue officials with help from the Department of Justice," Dominguez said.

Gov't experts seek creation of ICT body

By Paolo G. Montecillo

A GROUP OF TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS working in government is urging the Aquino administration to push for a national e-government policy, which they say would ease the delivery of services to the public.

Central to this policy is the creation of a Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), or, at the very least, an extension of the life and empowerment of the Commission on ICT (CICT), currently directly under the Office of the President.

"Our advocacy is mainly for government to get its act together," said Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tanlimco, regent of the Supreme Court, IT-e Arc president of the Global Information Officers Forum (GIOF).

As of now, no one government agency has a handle on what the others do. They don't seem to share any information with each other. Each unit is investing heavily in hardware and software which can't communicate with each other," he said.

According to Uy, inventories of data that different government agencies handle everyday are locked in "islands of information" that need to be linked together.

"But current status in ICT is like the Philippine archipelago, but we are an integrated government." The composer said.

Uy said the government should pursue the creation of DICT, or new equivalent which would have a different structure but the same powers, to replace the current CICT.

A bill to create the DICT failed to pass in the last Congress, but its proponents in the Senate and House have pledged to re-file the proposal.

"In case the department is one by a commission, it doesn't matter what we call the new government body," he said.

Countries in the region like Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore already have their own ICT government bodies.

"They approach e-government not to separate entities but as a single unit. I think that's how true e-government should be put up," Uy said.

ABS-CBN maintains ratings lead

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP. maintained its nationwide ratings lead in June, according to a survey by Kantar Media—formerly Taylor Nelson Sofres.

In a statement, the company said it is also bagged the ratings lead in both Metro Manila and Metro Manila, which are longtime battlefields of rival GMA Network Inc.

ABS-CBN said it "trashed" competition in the nationwide ratings with an average audience share of 44 percent—13 points higher than GMA's 31 percent.

Its average audience share in Mega Manila, which includes cities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces like Cavite and Bulacan, increased to 46 percent against GMA's 34 percent.

Even so, ABS-CBN's audience share in Mega Manila grew by eight points of a point from 35.2 percent in June 2016, while GMA's audience share lost seven points. From 46 percent in June 2016.

Meanwhile, ABS-CBN said it was able to get an average audience share of 38 percent, much higher than GMA's 31.2 percent.

ABS-CBN bagged all ten slots in the coveted weekday and weekend Top 10 most watched programs for the month of June. The list was led by the top-rating series "Agos Bandila" until taking the lead with an average rating of 40.2 percent.

Kantar Media/TNS is a leading global market research group with offices in 80 countries.

It started releasing its national television audience measurement data in February 2009 with panels, composed of 1,376 representative households, covering urban Philippines and reporting on seven areas namely NCR, suburbs, North Luzon, Central Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

ABS-CBN stalled its Kapamilya Online Live (KOL) after it sued ALS Nielsen Media Research for failing to comply with the network's request to investigate alleged cheating and data tampering in TV ratings.

The case is pending in court.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Sun Cellular draws up its own BlackBerry plans

MOBILE NETWORK SUN CELLULAR WILL come out with its own BlackBerry Data service plans to capture part of the growing local smartphone market.

Sun Cellular, which is run by Digital Mobile Philippines Inc. of the Dokoyama family, announced that the new plans would mark the addition of the BlackBerry Bold 9700 and Curve 8520 units to the company's portfolio of devices.

The unlimited plans, which will be available in Sun Cellular stores, will be offered in three variants: Unlimited Text, Unlimited Text and Web and Unlimited Text, Web and Email.

Sun Cellular said the addition service plans for BlackBerry smartphones will be available to existing postpaid subscribers as well as new subscribers.

The company declined to give details regarding rates or pricing. It only said that the new plans would be available in unlimited and limited variants.

Currently, subscribers of competing mobile networks' Globe Telecom and Smart Communications can go online using their BlackBerry phones at 15 centavos a kilobyte of browsing. However, both companies do offer fixed-rate unlimited plans.

"We are very pleased to offer the BlackBerry solution to Sun Cellular's customers," said Gregory Wade of Research In Motion, the Canadian company that makes BlackBerry phones. "BlackBerry smartphones, together with Sun Cellular's current plans offerings, will appeal to a broad spectrum of consumers."

Sun Cellular is the country's third largest mobile network, with over 15 million subscribers.

Paolo G. Montecillo

DOE undertakes massive bulb swap drive

By Amy R. Remo

SOME 2 MILLION ENERGY EFFICIENT compact fluorescent lamps will be distributed in Mindanao within the month, as part of the government's massive bulb replacement drive under the Philippine Energy Efficiency Project.

According to the Department of Energy, the 2 million CFLs, which will replace old incandescent bulbs, are expected to save an electricity consumption by several typhoon-hours a year, as well as help reduce the country's carbon emissions by roughly 22,000 tons annually.

For the same light output or brightness, a 50-watt incandescent bulb may be replaced with a 13-W CFL. Incandescents usually last up to 2,000 hours—about a fifth of a CFL's lifespan of 10,000 hours.

The DOE is tapping 10 electric cooperatives (ECs) and three private distribution utilities (DUs) that are based in Mindanao to help in the bulb swap project.

According to a memorandum agreement signed by utilities and government agencies, the DOE will provide technical and logistical support to the National Electrification Administration to promote the project.

The ECs and DUs will then be responsible for the distribution of the 15-W CFLs to customers to replace existing incandescent bulbs.

Within the week, the DOE will brief the utilities on how to implement, record and monitor CFL distribution activities. The briefing is also meant to ensure the correct installation of CFLs in households and proper disposal of incandescent bulbs.

The bulb-to-CFL swap is part of a government campaign to replace incandescent bulbs in selected areas with 15 million CFLs. This is expected "to provide direct economic benefits to the country by reducing energy peak demand and the need to import oil for power generation."

With this project, the government expects to reduce peak demand by 490 megawatts (MW), reduce oil imports by 1120 million pesos, defer power generation by 1,300 MW, equivalent to 500 million pesos, and clean development mechanism revenues of about $10 million for 2013-2012 under the Kyoto Protocol, and create an energy efficient market.

Other energy efficient projects include public lighting retrofit, expansion of energy efficiency labeling, lamp waste flexible, green building initiatives and social mobilization.

Toyota said to be aware of car trouble years ago

TOKYO—TOYOTA KNEW TWO years ago about the engine problem behind its lower-lower recall, even changing the spring part to correct it, but did not think a recall was necessary until recently, a company official said Tuesday.

Toyota Motor Corp. last Monday started a global recall over engine defects in its Lexus luxury models sold around the world, as well as the Crown sold in Japan, saying it expect some 270,000 vehicles to replace valve springs—crucial engine components that are flawed and could cause engine stalls.

In August 2008, Toyota changed their spring part, making it thicker, to prevent the problem, spokesman Hideaki Hosono told The Associated Press. That is why the latest recall does not affect vehicles produced after August 2008.

Toyota, the world's top automaker, previously thought the problem was caused by a foreign substance that had entered during manufacturing of the valve springs, and limited up checks so that it wouldn't happen. But the company had thought the problem was an isolated problem, which didn't require a recall.

But the complaints started climbing, and Toyota decided to closely study owners' isolated problems after all, but a design defect, and decided to issue the recall, Hosono said.

Toyota promised to recall problem cars more quickly to salvage a once pristine reputation now in tatters. The total number of vehicles recalled by the automaker had soared to more than 8.3 million since October. AP

TOYOTA Prius hybrid vehicles are displayed at Toyota Motor Corp.'s showroom in Tokyo. The Prius was Japan's top-selling car in June, clinching the No. 1 spot for the 140-straight-month. AP

Asian markets up on China rebound

BANGKOK—A JUMP IN CHINESE shares led Asian markets higher Tuesday as investors cooped up stocks that had been pummeled to multi-month lows, but some analysts doubted the recovery would last.

Weaker data from major economies over the past few weeks had diminished confidence in a strong rebound from last year's global recession and renewed markets, many of which are in the red so far this year.

But after days of selling, some investors saw stocks had become cheap, making it a ripe time to buy.

China led the region's gains with the Shanghai Composite Index climbing 0.8 percent, or 1.9 percent, to 2,489.42.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index, which earlier fell in a seven-year low, added 71.26 points, or 0.8 percent, to 9,538.04, while South Korea's Kospi was up 0.6 percent to 2,084.94.

Elsewhere, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.7 percent to 19,970.36. Markets in Singapore, India, Taiwan, and Indonesia were also higher. Only Australia's All Ordinaries closed in the red.

Despite the gains, analysts pointed to signs of weakening growth in Europe, US and even China as a reason to not consider too deeply into results.

"This was mostly a technical recovery and we see no convincing evidence of any positive changes in economic fundamentals," said Zhang Gang of Central China Securities in Shanghai.

In currencies, the dollar rose to 87.76 yen from 87.59 yen late Monday. The euro gained to $1.1203 from $1.1197. AP

Property bubble in China may hit banks hard

HONG KONG—CHINA'S PROPERTY market is a bubble, but the impact of a price correction on the country's banks is controllable, Harvard University economics professor Kenneth Rogoff said on Tuesday.

The volume of real estate transactions has fallen and prices are stagnating in the wake of steps by the central government to cool the market. Banking concerns among investors that investment in property will slump and drag down demand for commodities.

"It's a bubble and it's unpredictable how it will play out in the banking sector," Rogoff told Reuters on the sidelines of Asianforum.com's Asia-Pacific Debt Investor Forum.

"There's a lot of adjustment needed in the property sector and the authorities are doing to police on," said Rogoff, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund.

He said Chinese officials were doing the right thing to tackle the problem proactively "from a position of strength."

Measures rolled out by the government in recent months include higher down payments, the end of mortgage rate discounts, curbs on purchases of multiple homes and restrictions on mortgages to developers.

Xu Shaoshi, minister of land and resources, said at the weekend that he expected prices to start falling outside a few specialties as a result of the government curbs.

In an earlier interview with Bloomberg Television, Rogoff had voiced fears about the impact of the tightening on China's banks.

"You're starting to see that collapse in property and it's going to hit the banking system," Rogoff told Bloomberg.

But some economists who track China are less pessimistic.

They argue that there is relatively little leverage in the Chinese property market because home owners must make a down payment of at least 20 percent and many pay entirely in cash.

"Despite the importance of the property sector to the economy, we believe that the deflation of this bubble should have only a limited impact on the real economy and the banking system," said Bernstein's chief China economist, Sun Shilong.

Turning to Europe, Rogoff said Reuters that Greece was unlikely to escape restructuring its debt and said Portugal and some Eastern European countries might suffer the same fate. Reuters

CAMPI 3rd Philippine International Motor Show
Count down 42 days to go

MOTORING

Ed as sun bedtod
E-mail us_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Joey S. Arnaiz

Rainy day maintenance tips

By JP Tuason
Defensive Driving School

Second two parts

THE WEATHERMEN TELL US that the Philippines is normally dry for about eight months out of the year and even during the rainy season rarely do we get rains everyday. We're not new however to seeing waters levels rise from canals or esteros and even major roads when a sudden downpour comes.

This has often led to problems because most drivers are just so used to driving around in the dry that they don't really think about the dangers of wet weather. Let me talk about maintaining your car properly for the wet weather. A poorly maintained vehicle in the wet will not only lead to breakdowns on the road but major accidents which we're not prepared for.

Here are some tips to keep your vehicle ready for the rains.

1. Keep your tires treated in check. Tires are very important because if you think about it, they are the ONLY part of the car that touches the ground!

> A poorly maintained vehicle in the wet will not only lead to breakdowns on the road but major accidents which we're not prepared for.

Almost 70 percent of the people I ask on the right time to change tires think they need to run the tires all the way until they go bald and the thread is already coming out of the ply. They think this is when they have gotten the maximum life out of the tires.

This understandably of tire wear is very dangerous because tires intended for street use are called All-Weather tires. They should work well in both wet and dry conditions. Formula One cars only run slick tires in a dry condition giving them maximum grip due to the grooved contact patch. As soon as it rains though, the drastic

changes and these cars have to come into the pits for a change to rain tires. Rain tires have grooves in them to disburse the water from the path of the tires to keep the rubber in contact with the road.

So you must keep a good amount of grooves on the tires so they can work in any conditions. How much tire tread is needed? Look at the side of the tire and find the tire wear indicator. It points to the ridge in the tire tread. When the tread wears down and reaches this point, it is time to replace your tires!

2. Rotate and replace all four tires. Replacing only two front tires can put you at risk of an accident.

Most people drive around these days in Front Wheel Drive vehicles. What this means is when you step on the gas the front wheels pull the car forward. In this type of configuration the tendency is to eat up the front tires faster. If you are not diligent in rotating the tires often enough you will wear the front tires down much quicker.

It is always best to replace all four tires at the same time so that the grip levels in the wet [illegible] will be in the dry) are more even. If you replace the front tires and you leave the tire shop, if the road is dry, then you usually think you didn't get your money's worth by changing tires. As soon as it rains though the front tires you just put on, more grip because they can move a lot of water through its grooves. The rear tires though have been worn down quite a bit and as soon as you go through a slight bend in the highway the rear slides away quickly and fishtails. More often than not, you then become a passenger until the car hits a light post.

If you can't afford to replace all four tires, try putting the new ones on the back. More grip on the back causes the car to turn poorly and most drivers can catch this problem fairly easy and they just tend to slow down.

3. Make sure you can see the road clearly. Sounds might but I'm pretty sure you have been caught out in the rain a few times with wipers blades that just don't clean the windshield when you need it to. You can't drive safely if you can see through the windscreen. Here are a couple of things to do to ensure good vision:

• Make sure your wiper blades are good as new and clear they still have a sharp wiping edge. As the wipers age the rubber becomes brittle and works less effectively.

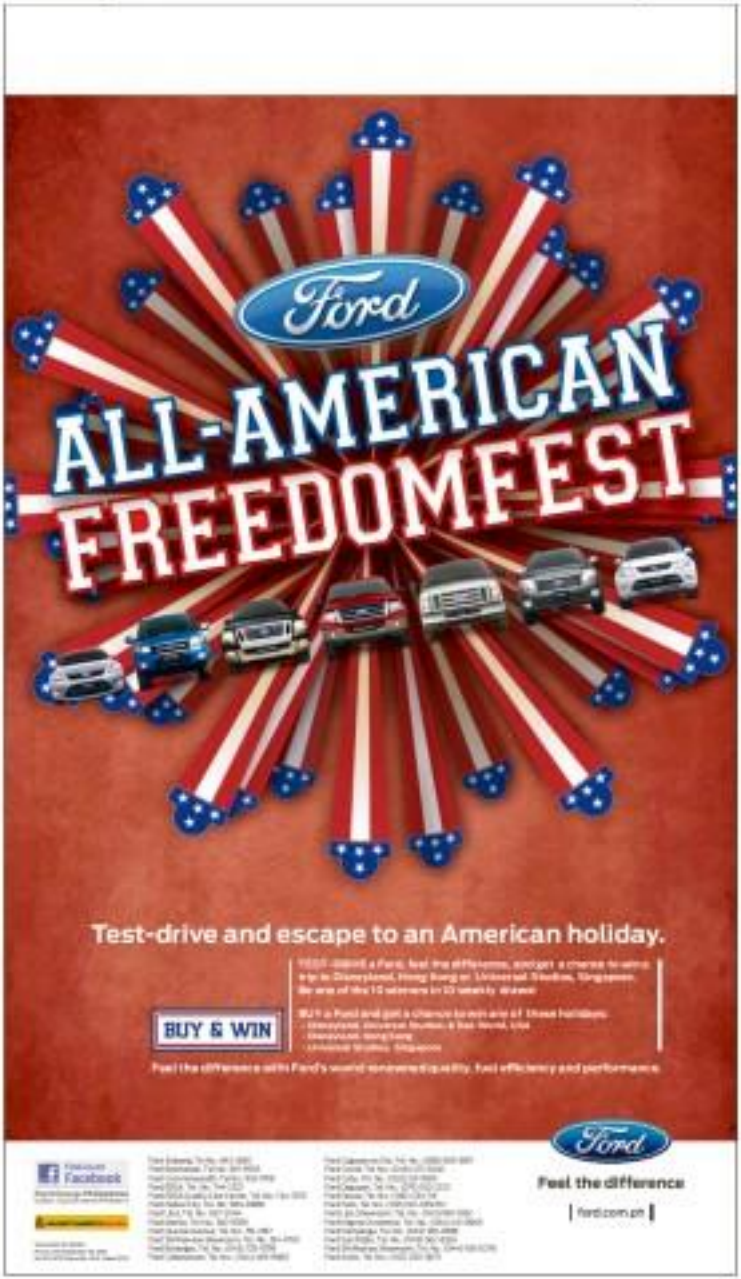
• Clean your wiper blades by wetting a damp cloth along their edges from time to time to remove the build-up of oils and debris that the wipers have removed from the windshield in previous use.

• Clean the outside surface of your windshield and windows glass. Then clean all of the inside glass. Use a glass cleaner or mix white vinegar and water to rub onto the windows. Newspaper makes an excellent polishing rag for automotive glass. Just rub until the streaks are gone and the windows are clean and clear.

• If your windshield is heavily pitted, it might be time for a replacement. Nothing less you see better than a new windshield.

• Make sure your defogger is working. A sudden downpour after a hot afternoon can make the windows mist. A good rear windscreen defogger can easily clear this up. If this doesn't work, try turning the AC on to circulate the air inside the vehicle.

These are simple tips but are things most people don't bother to explain properly. Keep safe on the roads and remember to send questions to jptuason@roadcraftmg.com and I will try to answer them in future articles.



THE iNAV's 4.95-inch LCD display is big enough to alert you of the landmarks ahead.

THE ONE-DAY event was designed to revisit some of the historic sites relevant to the country's independence in June 1898.

GPS makes road maps obsolete

Text and photos by Charles E. Bulseri

JUST LIKE DESIGN ENGINEERS WHO would come up with cars that zoom from zero to 100 kph in just 3.4 seconds or boomers who could take seemingly merciless curves and race them into compelling encounters, GPS also takes a special breed of individuals to be able to navigate through unfamiliar or complicated road networks and still get to their destination.

Indeed, having a highly developed sense of direction—coined among specialty intelligence individuals—is one gift not everyone is blessed with.

But don't despair if you find yourself among those who are easily lost when driving alone.

Thanks to GPS-based navigation systems, a technology developed originally for the United States military, present motorists can now have an indispensable tool that could guide them to their intended destination or even instruct them—through a voice prompt—as to which route is much better to take.

Still a novelty

While GPS navigation system is certainly is nothing new in this day and age (it's already a common feature in cars sold in the US, Europe and a number of countries in Asia, the technology is still considered a novelty here in the Philippines as car manufacturers are just beginning to introduce them in their new or special edition models," reports Jose Gargaceran of Motorsiyam Corp., official car division of iNAV installed navigation system that was added to Isuzu's special edition 2010 Alterra.

He said the technology is gaining popularity now that the price of installing one has become much more affordable.

It also helps that the iNAV branded 2GB intelligent navigation system as well as a very comprehensive map (developed by their partner, Asia map) that is more updated and reliable in plotting destinations, identifying places of interest located along the way and even smart enough to provide alternate routes when the driver needs to do a detour.

THE LAST historic place the participants visited was of course, the most significant, our national hero's ancestral home in Calamba, Laguna.

Test the mettle

During the recent "Iconic Alterra Navigates Historic Landmarks" event, media participants were able to really test the mettle of this device as they toured some of the historic landmarks in Manila, Kawit in Cavite, Tanauan City in Batangas and Calamba in Laguna.

Our team composed of Tita Hermosa of Autocheck World and Jun Dalusong of Autoreview and Bulseri were given no maps and instead, instructed us to program the iNAV to point the shortest route to our intended destinations.

All showed us were initially doubtful about the GPS-based navigation system but had to trust the device as this is key to winning the competition that Isuzu Philippines Corp. arranged for us that day.

"The competition is about which team gets to complete the day-long tour while logging the fewest number of kilometers. To do this, each team must trust the iNAV as it tells them which route to take. By the end of the event we assure the participants that they will be most familiar with the device," assures IPC president Hyuk Yoonsuk.

Starting from Fort Santiago in Intramuros and Jose Rizal Monument in Luneta, the participants proceeded to General Emilio Aguinaldo's shrine in Kawit, Cavite, to Apolinario Mabini's Shrine in Tanauan, Batangas and finally to Jose Rizal's ancestral home in Calamba, Laguna.

Touring historic places

"If you may notice, this event is intended to take the participants to some of the historic places, which is our way of paying tribute to our Heroes as we celebrate the country's Independence Day in June," explains IPC SVP Ian Carpenter Rodrigo. Ian Rubinoff.

He adds that the iNAV is an interactive device for any outdoorsy who loves to explore places around the Philippines.

"It's interesting to note that the device offers not only 2D but also 3D view of the map as well as contains some 80,000 points of interest that include the nearest fuel station, restaurants, historical or tourists destinations and even the nearest convenience store or hotel. Even subdivisions and schools along the way are identified," describes Rubinoffski.

Carpenteros, whose company has been an original equipment manufacturer for almost all car brands sold in the Philippines, is confident the iNAV installed in the special edition Alterra, will make the SUV more attractive for car buyers.

Says Carpenteros: "Those who already installed the device are discovering the advantages of having a virtual tour guide with you every time you get out of the parking space. It makes driving more enjoyable and at the same time less stressful."

Audi A4's motorsports pedigree

By Bocchi Santos

THE A4 2.0 TDI MIGHT NOT BE A FREE-breathing monster like the R10 open cockpit racer, but both share key methodologies: turbocharging and common-rail direct diesel fuel injection utilizing the most advanced Bosch-electric crystal tipped injectors. It is the latter which dwells in every proud, whirling engine, improves gas consumption and increase torque and power bands respectively and ultimately maximize efficiency.

My test unit, a silver A4 sedan was used as a VIP shuttle for luminaries such as Jamie Dimon (who when the pop sensation held a concert in our country, is in a luxo school bus variant equipped with Audi's excellent Multitronic CVT, another technology the German firm is proud to pioneer in a high-end luxury vehicle delivering a smooth yet fun drive. Its gear acceleration from outside to 160kmh defies belief for such a smooth driving car. And don't check-out if the engine was running at all or if in fact it was a dead due to the very low 9NM levels. Revving the DOHC 16-valve engine at idle only made it ape the sound of a gasoline powered engine. Fuel economy was an amazing 16.2 km/liter in-city driving supporting its claimed 20km/l highway figure. On the highway with a load feet. The step-less action of the CVT transmission means an almost electric-like consistency in sound and feel as the car accelerated rapidly to cruising speed. Even at 120kmh the engine was barely above 2,000 rpm.

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During the recent "Iconic Alterra Navigates Historic Landmarks" event, media participants were able to really test the mettle of this device as they toured some of the historic landmarks in Manila, Kawit in Cavite, Tanauan City in Batangas and Calamba in Laguna.

Our team composed of Tita Hermosa of Autocheck World and Jun Dalusong of Autoreview and Bulseri were given no maps and instead, instructed us to program the iNAV to point the shortest route to our intended destinations.

All showed us were initially doubtful about the GPS-based navigation system but had to trust the device as this is key to winning the competition that Isuzu Philippines Corp. arranged for us that day.

"The competition is about which team gets to complete the day-long tour while logging the fewest number of kilometers. To do this, each team must trust the iNAV as it tells them which route to take. By the end of the event we assure the participants that they will be most familiar with the device," assures IPC president Hyuk Yoonsuk.

Starting from Fort Santiago in Intramuros and Jose Rizal Monument in Luneta, the participants proceeded to General Emilio Aguinaldo's shrine in Kawit, Cavite, to Apolinario Mabini's Shrine in Tanauan, Batangas and finally to Jose Rizal's ancestral house in Calamba, Laguna.

Touring historic places

"If you may notice, this event is intended to take the participants to some of the historic places, which is our way of paying tribute to our Heroes as we celebrate the country's Independence Day in June," explains IPC SVP Ian Carpenter Rodrigo. Ian Rubinoff.

He adds that the iNAV is an interactive device for any outdoorsy who loves to explore places around the Philippines.

"It's interesting to note that the device offers not only 2D but also 3D view of the map as well as contains some 80,000 points of interest that include the nearest fuel station, restaurants, historical or tourists destinations and even the nearest convenience store or hotel. Even subdivisions and schools along the way are identified," describes Rubinoffski.

Carpenteros, whose company has been an original equipment manufacturer for almost all car brands sold in the Philippines, is confident the iNAV installed in the special edition Alterra, will make the SUV more attractive for car buyers.

Says Carpenteros: "Those who already installed the device are discovering the advantages of having a virtual tour guide with you every time you get out of the parking space. It makes driving more enjoyable and at the same time less stressful."

THE Audi A4 is impressive in its own way, a bold and intelligent sports-

LUBRICANTS

New Shell Rimula heavy-duty engine oils guarantee engine protection

SHELL Lubricants' latest changes to it's well-established Shell Rimula range of heavy duty engine oils. The changes are designed to make it much easier for individual users to find the oil that is right for their vehicle as well as offering an improved range of performance products.

"The newest members of the Shell Rimula range was established back in the early 1960's," said Lyndon Lucman, marketing manager for Shell Lubricants. "... but things have moved on since then. Both fuels and lubrication standards and in turn the customer desire for their lubricants to deliver added value such as fuel economy performance."

The new Shell Rimula Energised Protection range features oil technology designed to adapt to the changing needs of the engine. The new range takes into account changes in technology as well customer requirements which is making it easier for users to identify the right oil for their operation.

"The new Shell Rimula range is the springboard for launching our latest and improved technologies from reliable performance all the Shell Rimula R1 tier to the triple action protection of Shell Rimula R3 X that refined Shell's outstanding commitment to meeting the needs of the transport industry now and in the future," said John Logan, Pacific Region, Shell Lubricants.

The new Shell Rimula range of heavy-duty engine oils will be available from May 16, 2010.

Shell markets a full range of complementary brands and products to the users of heavy-duty equipment including Shell Spirax gear and axle oils, Shell Donax automatic transmission fluids, Shell Retinax greases and Shell Corena DRF Coolants.

Total Lubricants seal deal with UMC

TOTAL (Philippines) Corporation's Lubricants and Specialfields Division recently inked an agreement to supply the aftermarket lubricants requirements of Universal Motors Corporation (UMC), the assembler and distributor of Nissan diesel-run vehicles in the Philippines, along with its 11 dealers nationwide.

The partnership is rooted on the successful collaboration of TOTAL and UMC to increase turnover of 4x2 Nissan vehicles in general auto repair shops through the Nissan Express Service Program.

With Total's assistance in executing the promotions and packaging of its oils, UMC was able to reach a sales level of 13.6 metric tons per month, moving to its full potential of 15.2 metric tons per month from a conservative forecast of 9 metric tons per month in January.

With the launch of two new Nissan car models in the country, the Murano, and the new Patrol, Total and UMC are broadening the link further by introducing a co-branded synthetic oil specifically made for these models. Unlike previous mineral oils sold to UMC, these new oils shall have the quality of the Total Quartz 9000 brand that can be capitalized in many future marketing collaterals and advertising. Indeed, TOTAL's OEM activities with Nissan and other potential OEM markets are now gaining ground.

UMC successfully acquired Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc. (NMPI), its counterpart assembler and distributor of Nissan cars covering in gasoline fuel in 2007.

Golden age of car buying

TO DATE, OVERALL CAR SALES ARE up roughly 20 percent over last year. That is an astounding growth figure, even considering last year's sullen pitiful mood of the people, hence prospering building controlling now. Hyperion as the current launch of the 2014 Accent models, hosted by Sundance TV was pleased with their respective brand's sales performances.

But in the meantime, everybody knows like me out on the street, when cars are involved the growth is astounding.

Some share a central view: money paid out to dealerships, importers and personalizers even this current election is now forming a new buying spree. What better way to announce this than buying a new car, but where there THAT many of these scan of people? Former candidates and near-elected officials are also possible contributors to the growth. Don't even whine a number as the former group mentioned, do they really represent that much of a growth? To present growth in car sales are in the tens of thousands of cars. Besides, these people wouldn't buy your Nissans, Isuzuns, Civics and Cores. No, they'd be buying high-end SUVs, luxury sedans and sports cars.

A wise guess would be people buying cars to replace ones lost after "Ondoy." That's a good one. But do these people replacing their cars number in the tens of thousands as well? I guess if you're one of those people buying one car or two is content that you spend to deluge and flood of Biblical proportions, then maybe, just maybe.

Reasonable might argue that OFWs are the drivers of growth in both the auto and real estate and property market. Now there's a more plausible answer as dollars are top money and increase one's buying power if they know where and when to exchange the would-have-counts).

However believe that there are more people buying more cars simply because, well, the cars being sold nowadays are definitely cheaper and thus more desirable compared to cars sold ten years ago. Coupled with easy to earn pay, most vibrations, owning a car has never been easier. There has never been a better time to buy a car in our country's history.

In 2000, the only car worthy of note was the Toyota Corolla with the then locally available dohc 16-valve engine, the legendary 4AGE that was straight out of a boy scout's fantasy. Almost a decade later, the Honda Civic 1.8 made equally huge waves in the local market because of that same robust 16-v twin cam engine that was found in more upscale cars. Before, the Evolution X and Subaru Lancers from Mitsubishi, the handsome Hyundai Genesis coupe, the enticing BA Ford and the rear monster of CRDi equipped SUVs. Should you have the money plus-rounds, pick your Porsche, Ferrari or Maserati's models. Too Rich? Perhaps the latest 4000 or M-B series variants from Mercedes or BMW who what? your automotive bible.

The point here is that there are more and more cars that are out in the market, locally available with a full dealership service and after-sales support. Gone are the days where gray-market importers where like make-call schemes, cartooning and offering the ignorant masses with their wares, the buyer only to be plagued with dodgy papers and tax payments, followed by lack of proper after-sales support and service.

It's not just high-end cars, but your bargain-basement Koreanese cars that are truly exciting. The Hyundai Eon stands at the forefront. There is one amazing little car that is both hugely fun and amazingly practical. The Honda 2 and now Ford Fiesta are not closely behind, as well as the Toyota Yaris, perhaps the best deal in the segment, sketchbooks seem more exotic compared to a normal 3-box sedan simply because, well, it looks benign and exciting compared to its Asian sedan. But even the sedans look to better and so far better equipped than a comparable car from 5 years ago.

We are at a golden age of car buying. There has never been a greater time to buy a car. And we're not stuck with the usual colors confessed by our grandparents. No more cream or pearl or even refrigerator white, no more plain maroon or black. Now we've got exotic sounding colors like mandarin, brown, Bordeaux, Basalt black, lacquers, habanero red, lotus yellow, etc. Who would have thought yellow would be so popular?

People, buy a car now. Enjoy it, drink it, since it, endorse your freedom to move on own planet. Help strength on our economy. Pray that there will be more technological coming soon. And buy thrusters well.

Skid Marks
Roch Sotto

WINDSHIELD CRACK REPAIR
NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTS2
MANILA MIDWEST

ORIGINAL LEATHER
CAR SEAT

HYUNDAI
Drive your way
Hyundai
Car Wellness
No Down/Sep 24 to July 10, 2013, treat your car to any of these Best Care Packages
Best Care Package 1
Best Care Package 2
Best Care Package 3
Best Care Package 4
Best Care Package 5
Plus! Enjoy these freebies and discounts:
FREE 21-Point Check-up
FREE Exterior Body Wash, Interior Vacuum Cleaning, and Tire Black
and 10% Off on Labor Charges for Aircon Cleaning
Genuine Parts
HYUNDAI AUTHORIZED DEALERS

iPODs at stake in Honda pboto tilt

why shop anywhere else?
AUTOLOTTO
the home depot
CW group
Roca
BATHROOM TREAT
3rd
LIVING ROOM TREAT
2nd
1st
ISUZU
GRAND DRAW: Nov. 13, 2013
Deadline of submission of entries will be on October 31, 2013
Akari
Tecnos
Hoppe
Hamilton
Sentry Safe
ABC
Champs
Firefly
Panasonic
Sanitec
Condura
Fujidenzo
Apollo
Fujitsu
Toshiba
Sharp
Kelvinator
Fujidenzo
Condura
Fujitsu
Toshiba
Sharp
Kelvinator

Ford celebrates freedom's new meaning

By JP Nazaret

THE FOURTH OF JULY marks the United States' independence, a very important holiday often celebrated with fireworks, parades, concerts, picnics as well as eating hotdogs and barbeques.

It was during this day 234 years ago (that's to 1776) when the 13 British colonies in North America declared themselves sovereign and independent from the British monarchy.

From then on the Americans owned their own path, developing their own culture that continues to impact our ways of life today.

Among the most significant would be what American entrepreneur, inventor and philanthropist Henry Ford did.

As the father of mass production of vehicles, he developed the assembly that paved the way for average Americans to have access to inexpensive, high quality automobiles.

Innovations

Ford also produced many innovations, pioneering safety features first now come standard in modern vehicles like the laminated glass for windshields in 1927, factory-installed seat belts in 1956 and head and chest airbags in 1999.

Today, Ford Group Philippines continues the tradition by holding the annual "All American Freedom Feast".

Now on its 8th year, not only is Ford sharing high quality automobiles, they decided to treat their loyal car with deals such as free trips to Hong Kong Disneyland, Singapore's Universal Studios in their weekly raffle and even a five-day adventure to Disneyland in Anaheim and Universal Studios in Hollywood in the grand prize raffle.

Buying a Ford from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2010 entitles the buyer one of 21 trips to be raffled off to the main draw on Oct. 11, one of which is a trip for two to the US.

Another way

Another way to join the raffle is to test drive a Ford at any Ford dealership during the same period and they will be able to join the raffle to any of the 16 destinations.

Steven Tan, VP for Sales and Marketing of Ford Group Philippines, invites everyone to check out any of Ford's best selling models like the Escape, Escape Limited, Everest, Explorer, E-150 Club Wagon or Expedition from any of the 21 authorized Ford dealerships and display showrooms all over the Philippines.

Authorized dealers

To know more about the terms and conditions, "for informed interested buyers may call or visit any of the 21 authorized Ford dealerships and display showrooms all over the Philippines.

In Metro Manila visit Ford Alabang, Ford Global City, Ford Balintawak, Ford Edsa, Ford Cubao, Ford Quezon Avenue, Ford Commonwealth, Ford SM Fairview, or Ford Manila, or Ford para'ño the nearest Ford dealership in Cavite, San Pablo, Batangas, Sm Lipa, Dagupan, Calamba, Pampanga, Subic, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro or Davao.

Monarch VIP On-the-Spot raises the bar for industry

BE WELL LARGE, "SAFETY" SERVES AS THE watchword for motorists while on the road. Aside from the damage to their vehicles and possible injuries to themselves and their passengers, making an insurance claim is such a huge challenge that sweats an already-volatile situation.

However, Monarch Insurance's VIP On-Spot Insurance Policy) On-The-Spot is intended to change that as car owners can now enjoy the combined convenience of on-the-spot, hassle-free guaranteed payment when involved in an automobile accident. So, there is no more anxiety about waiting for weeks or months just to settle the expenses of the damaged vehicle.

"We know the ill feelings of car owners when they meet an auto accident and also the long and painstaking process that they have to go through when making an insurance claim," says FC Lai, Monarch Insurance GVP.

A first of its kind in the Philippines, Monarch Insurance, the leader in innovative auto insurance, offers the VIP On-The-Spot to help its policyholders get rid of the proverbial red tape or long process when making claims for their damaged cars. In a traditional system, it usually takes at least two weeks of waiting for the insured just to get his car into a workshop.

"The normal claims process is very long and painstaking. What we do with VIP On-The-Spot is make the claims process convenient and hassle-free – no police report, no photographs, no estimates required," explained Lai. "All they need to do is to just make a phone call, and that's it! Once our have their motor insurance claim settled on the spot, then they can leave the accident site and choose where they want their cars to be repaired."

So how does this new auto-claim service work?

Monarch Insurance has a state-of-the-art 24-hour Call Center, with hotline number 816-0000, that would receive all calls for assistance from policyholders involved in auto accidents anywhere within Metro Manila. The policyholder only has to give his name, vehicle plate number and location. The customer service agent-on-duty would then assign an automobile engineer who would reach the accident site within half an hour. The engineer would evaluate the damages and offer settlement on the spot.

Citing security reasons, Lai indicated that claims amounting to P20,000 and below are given to the driver on the spot. For claims above P20,000, she noted that the client would be issued a damage estimate and could claim the check at the Monarch Insurance office on the next working date.

Since customer satisfaction is a top priority in this process, there is a feedback mechanism for the customer to report any dissatisfaction in the claims process including any undervaluation of the damages. The claim manager would then visit the customer and re-evaluate the damages and pay the difference. But given the Company's expertise and the fact that only well trained and qualified automobile engineers are used to assess the damages, such an event rarely occurs.

For more information, visit Monarch Insurance Company, Inc. at 15th Floor, Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City; call 8524848 (5588) or log on to : www.monarch.com.ph.

For Michelin, right tire changes all

MICHELIN RECENTLY LAUNCHED worldwide its first ever global advertising campaign—"The right tire changes everything"—through media platforms around the world, including the Philippines. This aims to exhibit the competitive advantages of Michelin tires and to creatively present to the end users the benefits of using these tires. The campaign was also rolled out to further strengthen the Michelin brand and tire brand awareness/preference.

Michelin, through this unconventional campaign, highlights one key message: by simply choosing Michelin tires do you not compromise longevity, safety, or fuel savings. By using the right tire, consumers can significantly reduce fuel consumption, increase driving safety and extend tread life.

The worldwide campaign was launched in the United States in latter part of 2009 and later deployed in more than 50 countries—in Europe and Asia in early 2010, followed by Africa, the Middle East, India and South America.

In the Philippines through its local office in Manila, Michelin has been deploying the campaign through above-the-line and below-the-line print advertisements, and various point-of-purchase materials in the partner dealers nationwide. For more information, log on to www.michelin.com.ph.

MOTORING
Editor Joey B. Arcano

Silencing the 'wang-wang'

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex P. Leiran

A HOBO modern-top light with different flash patterns, and which costs about P27,000 to P30,000

How the dreaded siren has demeaned real emergencies

IT WAS MEANT TO BE a signal for life-or-death emergencies, an early warning for other motorists for them to give way, and perhaps save a life. But the "wang-wang," those sirens and flashing lights installed on motor vehicles and motorcycles, have evolved into something else entirely undesirable for most motorists. They have become an alarm of sorts for approaching VIPs and his or her entourage of security escorts.

The general reasoning public considers this as a throwback to the days of feudalism, when members of the moneyed and landed class, especially royalty, were given reinforcement access to roads, bridges and passageways. Those feudal lords possessed the biggest, most intimidating swords, and often they would rumble through towns and cities with a cortege of intimidating horsemen, all clad in heavy iron armour and other trappings of power. If you were an ordinary peasant, wouldn't you give way to such a sight? And in the same breath, wouldn't such a sight further divides among ordinary folk?

Raymund Landingin, executive chairman and operations commander of the Citizens Traffic Action, admitted to becomes blooming that he wouldn't blame the motoring public for being resentful of vehicles using their wang-wangs to get their way around or through traffic.

"Sirens and blinkers have evolved from its original design and message of 'safe lane, may emergency po' into 'safe daan, impormasyong mo' eh,'" he quipped.

The CTA is one of very few non-government organizations authorized by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Land Transportation Office to use blinkers and sirens in its members' vehicles. And it is authorized for use in only specific instances. The CTA is a civilian volunteer group, organized during President Corazon Aquino's term, trained to respond to road-related emergencies (usually involving stalled vehicles or accidents).

Landingin lamented that the easy accessibility of those wang-wangs, and their indiscriminate use, have "desensitized" the original intent of their use, to the point that almost no one suspects, or gives way, to vehicles using wang-wangs and in the process of responding to actual emergencies. CTA, in general, now usually finds it takes a longer time to arrive at the scene of accidents since many motorists even intentionally block their path.

CTA vehicles have now even resorted to carrying megaphones to explain to other motorists that they are responding to an emergency. Pat Dado, this approach is more effective means of clearing a path. "The Presidential Security Group and police escorts should carry speakers instead of resorting to 'pito-pito' on the hoods of blinking cars."

Landingin said he has already removed all his blinkers and sirens in support of President Noynoy Aquino's anti-wang-wang campaign.

Floating traffic rules

The notorious wang-wang hasn't only caused many inconveniences among law-abiding motorists, its users have also seen it as a legitimate excuse to flout traffic laws.

One example was caught on camera a few months ago by **Ivanson Alex Lainas**. Lainas, who happened to be refueling his car at a gasoline near Silverstone Village, noticed a black SUV (model GMC) with a **security plate bearing the red** light as it cruised fuller—wang-wang in full blast and blinkers on. In the process, the SUV collided with a bus crossing the intersection. The bus had the right of way as it had the green light.

"I (hurried over to the site), looked inside the van and saw a young man inside. According to the police investigators who were there at the time, the SUV belonged to a certain congressman residing in Sweetwater Village." However, in that instance, the lawmaker was not inside the vehicle.

Lainas then noticed that the young man, who turned out to be a member of the security detail of the congressman, pulled out a long firearm, approached the bus driver, and grabbed him by the collar. It was at this point, Lainas narrated, that he started taking pictures of the security escort and the SUV. "He lowered his firearm and made an excuse that he was just transferring his weapon to another vehicle."

Here's another example. An **inspector of the Highway Patrol Group** based in Camp Crame, who refused to be identified on the reason that he was not authorized to speak for the HPG, **swerved** to bypass the long. "For many years, well-connected VIPs and politicians have refused to submit to our stress-related apprehensions. A police officer was recently relieved of his duties after he apprehended a governor for using blinkers and sirens."

Col. Edwin Roy Remocro, the HPG's Public Information Officer, explained to motorists the wang, "We are not allowed to just accost vehicles on mere

GLANCING BLI

A SERIES of images shows a convoy led by a motorcycle escort. Note the proliferation of blinkers and, if you can imagine, the noisy "wang-wang" that go along with them. Part of this convoy is a Benz and a security vehicle with intentionally obscured plate (which is itself illegal, by the way). Our boo-man found out later that the "VIP" in the Benz was on his way to a car showroom—as if his fly-by-night reputation is not enough.

PHOTO BY ROMEO LOPEZ

Silencing the 'wang-wang'

From page B3-1

suspicion (of possessing wang-wangs) unless there's glaring evidence."

Balmaceda said Presidential Decree 96 prohibits dome lights or specified fog lamps properly attached to off-road vehicles are not automatically subject to confiscation, especially if the vehicle owner provides sufficient reason that the lamps are used for its original purpose. Fog lamps used in ordinary city roads, however, are not allowed. Violators who keep fog lamps should cover them properly.

Balmaceda said, "We welcome the public's suggestions to make the PNP Highway Patrol Group more effective in enforcing road rules," he told Inquirer Motoring. He urged motorists to text 2920 (PNP's space> details of complaints) if they spot unauthorized vehicles carrying wang-wangs and blinkers. Or they can call the tactical operations center at 726-1262, or 117.

Wang-wang vendors off the hook!

This writer went the rounds of the auto parts shops and accessories and shady areas, capital on the Banawe Street in Quezon City, and found that wang-wang vendors were merely hiding their sins.

Enjo de Guzna, a "freelancer" sales agent, revealed that a siren would cost around P6500, while a blinker (red and blue light) cost P1,500. A LED-type siren goes for P8,000.

Wilma Ramos, a Banawe store clerk, said that a long ambulance-type light with siren is an expensive P16,000, while a revolving light (with siren) costs P14,000. The simple magnet-type round light goes for as little as P1,500.

Carlos Arriola Dan with three accessories being the boss of the new administration's advisories, he has ceased to sell them—for now. He believes, though, that after two months, the apprehensions will stop and will be business as usual. He categorized the Cebu Cebu, who regularly sneaks out for P5,500 each and 6 siren strobe for P2,800, apiece.

Other wang-wang owners have taken the initiative to have their accessories and blinkers removed in Banawe. Raimund 25-vehicle owners had already asked to remove their siren-blinker sets and blinkers barely three days after President Noynoy declared his policy war on wang-wangs. Wilma charges P350 for each removal of a siren, and up to P600 for a blinker removal.

But users clarified that the DPG is not an. (See'lied to apprehend or arrest violators of blinkers and sirens. "As far as the DPG is concerned, we only propose that its role be regulated as it used to be almost."

Still, a total of six cars, or 1900 blinkers and sirens, were confiscated by the DPG groups' daily operations from January to July 2010.

That's 1900 vehicles stripped of their power to intimidate and harass peaceful, law-abiding motorists.

Goodbye to unauthorized 'wang-wangs'

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

SEMI-GOYA

Did you, like me, jump up and cheer when Noynoy Aquino promised "No more wang-wang" during his inaugural address?

I guess not, when you were standing in the Luneta field fronting the Quirino Grandstand, dressed in formal Filipiniana attire to perhaps with the 39 other PB guests from the United States who flew in Manila just to attend President Benigno S. Aquino III's inauguration after campaigning for him nationwide.

But you must have seen how (Noy)'s "No more wang-wang" message quickly resonated with the people, more than the other action slogans in his speech, judging from the gung-ho media exposure that it got in the following days and how the Highway Patrol Group (HPG) scrambled to enforce that. Traffic bulletin front of TV news cameras, surely the new President was aped on with the new policy.

Since you live in South San Francisco, where motorists generally obey traffic regulations and practice road courtesy (I still remember that you dashed me when I did not make a full stop at an intersection where traffic was light), you may be wondering why Noynoy's pledge made him even more popular.

EXPLAINED. It's because the law banning the unauthorized use of sirens, blinkers, dome lights and other traffic-stopping (or accident-causing) paraphernalia in motor vehicles has been violated with impunity by all those years—not only by senators, congressmen, local government officials, armed forces and police officers, staff of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, but also by private individuals, prompting users who belong to the category of those deserving sound and blinding light gadgets to fidgety.

More often than not, siren-wailing vehicles are big SUVs or limos escorted by heavily armed security details to ensure complete intimidation of other road users and any traffic policeman who might dare to interfere with their rights. Of course, brandishing a government issued license plate, particularly a low-numbered one, helps, even if the use thereof is illegal or unauthorized.

For only the time being, only the President, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are authorized to use those gadgets. By unity of thought with former plate numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are authorized and those with plate number's 6, 7 8 and upwards are unauthorized.

The anti-wang-wang President's Executive No. 96 issued during martial law remained in force after President Marcos was ousted, but was rarely enforced. He all other traffic regulations except the number coding and "No plate-No travel" impositions which many traffic officers have re-enforce for easy pickings. Recently, complied with HG 96 during the Marcos years to cause aside from immoral, are confiscation of the gadgets, in case of a second and other subsequent offenses, the offender would be prosecuted before the military tribunal and upon conviction, would be imprisoned and fined and the registration of his motor vehicle using the unauthorized gadgets was canceled or revoked. Under P-Noy the unauthorized gadgets are immediately confiscated on the spot and the violator is slapped with a fine of P15,000 a redirected to the second offense.

WANGWANG NO CONCRESSMAN is a classic example of abuse of power. The driver of the SUV beat the red light while using sirens and blinkers. When a bus collided with the SUV, the passenger of the SUV alighted and pointed a long firearm at the bus driver.

HIGHLINE. DSE. PD-96 authorizes sirens, blinkers, etc. to be used by motor vehicles designated and marked for official use by the Armed Forces, National Bureau of Investigation, Land Transportation Office, police, fire, government and hospital ambulances. Then, the private cars of AFP, MM, CIO, police and fire department officers and employees should not be flaunting their gadgets.

With renewed vigor to impress their new bosses, the HPG officers are also confiscating commemorative plates. Under the law, a license plate is valid for one year only and should not accept the regular license plate but should be attached above the latter if it covers the former plate. It can be confiscated even though an validity has not yet expired.

CITIZENS' Traffic Action's speaker and siren removed from the LTO

So Gina, I hope that your friends and relatives living here are fully aware of these laws. We, law-abiding motorists hope that the revitalized campaign against unauthorized sirens, blinkers, etc. will not last stones after a few weeks like other well-meaning efforts. Although dumb hearts we are no longer under martial law, I agree with PNP-Hi that these gadgets "actually impede and confuse traffic, are inconsiderate with sound traffic discipline and control on the highways, and in effect constitute a major problem in the maintenance of peace and order." Maybe the sale of these gadgets should be regulated or restricted.

That the new prime will pose friends and relatives here that if they've forgotten the HPG and LTO hotline numbers, they can call the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) 411-2288 or 09[illegible] 2288 to report the license plate numbers and other identifying details of unauthorized wang-wangs and, AAP in turn, will forward the info to the HPG and LTO.

Meanwhile, we hope that for his own safety and our peace of mind, P-Noyney would, like his late mother when she was President, use sirens and blinkers only his convoy to the road. After all, he is Number One and motorcade is do not—first regards, Aida.

Motor Image conducts special service campaign for Subaru units

MYTH: IMAGE PEDITION, the exclusive distributor of Subaru in the Philippines, announces the start of a special service campaign for the month of July highlighted by the first ever nationwide dealer night drift supervised by a service program for its 2010 Subaru Legacy and Outback. The special campaign is an initiative made by Motor Image to further improve its service to all Subaru customers. It will also be conducting a special inspection of all 2010 Legacy and Outback models during this time and make the necessary initiation of rectification as part of a global safety initiative by Fuji Heavy Industries, the manufacturers of Subaru automobiles.

The special service campaign by Motor Image's service team is in line with the lifestyle of its customers who are often deep in their work and businesses during weekdays and arrive with their Subaru and family during weekends, starting on July 15, the night drift operations will allow Subaru owners to bring their cars for periodic maintenance and servicing until 8 p.m. and get it back free thing in the morning of the following day aside from the extended working hours, the Subaru Greenhills facility will also be open to sales and after-sales customers are all serviced throughout the month of July.

Aside from the night-time service operation, Subaru Greenhills will also be extending the hours of its new car showroom until 9 p.m. in order to accommodate working professionals and businessmen coming from their offices and places of work. Subaru sales consultants will be present to assist them in their queries and requirements while enjoying refreshments.

The move is a first in the industry and reflects the commitment of Motor Image to continually improve its service to its customers. "The night-drift and Sunday operations will allow our busy motor enthusiasts of our customers. Hard-working professionals and executives can now check out the latest Subaru vehicles after their work while Subaru owners can bring their cars for night drop-off. This will let them sleep soundly at night knowing that their Subaru is being taken care of and will be ready the next day" said Glenn Tan, the Group Chief Executive of Motor Image Enterprises. "This is part of our commitment to set new standards in customer satisfaction and raise the bar in car ownership experience" he added.

All concerned owners of the 2010 Subaru Legacy and Outback will also be contacted and notified by Motor Image to bring their cars for scheduled technical campaign. Fuji Heavy Industries, the parent company of Subaru, has identified a problem with the Legacy's steering rod connector that can easily be rectified. Motor Image encourages the proactive role of informing its customers so it can immediately resolve the concern all free of charge. All 2010 Legacy and Outback owners are also advised to coordinate with Motor Image by calling at 727-6533 for any questions or inquiries.

40 and still fabulous—the Range Rover

By Alvin Ang

IN THE 1970s, SIX WHEELERS were considered as workhorses, so when the Range Rover was introduced four decades ago, it caught the automotive world by surprise. The idea of a good-looking, luxurious, 4x4 off-road family vehicle was something unique and visionary indeed.

The Range Rover is (still) four vehicles in one. It is a luxury motor car, a luxury vehicle that will travel far and wide on the highways and off-road trails of the world, a high-performance car for long distance travel, and a surprising cross-country vehicle," said Phil Washington, managing director for Land Rover Phi adds, "Land Rover has a unique history of product innovation that the Range Rover probably remains the most historically significant vehicle we have ever launched. It is one of the most important vehicles in the history of motoring."

The Range Rover recently turned the big four-O last June 17, 1970. Even before the acronym "SUV" (sport utility vehicle) was coined, the Range Rover was seen as the beginning of the luxury sport utility vehicle revolution. The first generation Range Rover have become known as the Classic model. With its high-ly utilitarian character but added with exhaustive creature comforts and luxury compared to the Land Rover, it reared to the market for 25 years.

The second generation model is known as the 1980s, introduced in 1994 and further reinforced its celebrity appeal to the public. From athletes to actors, sheiks to sheiks, it featured a standard of bespoke treatments and fittings second to none. The third generation took over by 2002, when the SUV market has become more competitive with more brands in the front. However, Range Rover still had benchmarked status with clients and its unique niches like—"The best 4 x 4 x 4 Car" and "It's never over with a Rover."

While the previous two generations had positioned the Range Rover as a single model brand, by 2008, a second model was introduced—the Range Rover Sport, a smaller and more sporting model which was instantly aimed to wards customers who are driver-centric and sports-oriented. The current generation model is still in production, but it received a number of upgrades over the years, including all-new V8 engines and a revised Terrain Response suspension system. Rover fans are looking forward to another model to be introduced later this year, based on the LRX Concept Vehicle as a "baby" Range Rover to make its debut at the 2010 Paris Motor Show slated this September.

On a sad footnote however, a few days after the 40th birthday anniversary of the Range Rover, Charles Spencer "Spen" King, a British engineer and considered as the father of the original

THE RANGE Rover was seen as the beginning of the luxury sport utility vehicle revolution.

Range Rover, died last June 26 at age 85. King passed away in a result of injuries sustained when his bicycle collided with a van. He entered and on 1962 as an engineering for the Rover Co. before going to work for his mentor, Spencer and Maurice Wilks, at the Rover company. King also helped develop the Triumph Stag, the Triumph TR6 and the TR7 after the company acquired founded Triumph. These were some of the cars that got Americans moved with its love affair with British roadsters.

JCA Technology Center to rise in Cagayan de Oro

By Benchi Santos

SUBIC-CAMIARIN CORPORATION, the official distributor of BMW Cars in the Philippines under the leadership of its Chairman Jose Ch. Alvarez, recently held a commercial signing to formally announce the Jose Ch. Alvarez (JCA) Technology Complex.

This modern technological vocational facility will be constructed inside the campus of Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro and will assume its completion by 2012. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the end of this year.

The facility aims to develop the skills of deserving Filipino students and give them the opportunity to eventually become a part of the competent labor force, not only here in the Philippines, but in international industries as well.

Currently, Xavier University's Center for Industrial Technologies has four vocational courses being offered with 600 enrolled students. With this additional support of P72.3 million for the construction of two new buildings, the student population is expected to grow significantly, potentially double from its current student population. Aiming to be an extension of Xavier University Cagayan de Oro, the Jesuit Organization's oldest institutional facility in the country.

"I personally believe in the value of having a good education and I recognize the talent of the Filipino youth and their need for progressive educational institutions. Which is why the JCA Technology Complex was born," said Alvarez.

The JCA Technology Complex will offer automotive technology as one of its courses and students enrolled in this program will have the option to undergo training in different BMW dealerships in the world and eventually get absorbed into the company.

Johannes Gerber, BMW Asia head, pledged on behalf of his company that BMW will be providing technical training to both students and faculty members, provide base training curricular systems such as power trains, drive-trains, safety systems and advanced wiring looms and harnesses, plus specialized equipment used for diagnosing and repairing the said vehicle's sub-systems.

The agreement was signed between ACC Chairman Alvarez and Xavier University's Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, SJ and witnessed by BMW Asia's Mr. Gerber and Mr. Bobby Stenton, President of Asian Construction Corporation.

Gerber is equally excited at the training program because it means that the BMW dealership network around the world can tap a new source for skilled and BMW-trained workshop technicians who can work anywhere in BMW dealership, enlarging the talent pool and hopefully bring about harder working and better skilled technicians from the Philippines.

MITSUBISHI SUPPORTS CONCEPCION

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) is throwing its support behind upcoming Filipino boxer Bernabe "Abe" Concepcion who will face Puerto Rican Juan Manuel Lopez for the WBO Featherweight World Championship this Saturday in Puerto Rico. MMPC is providing funds for Abe's training and for his flight expenses. At the contract signing were Antonio T. Alvarez, Jr. SVP for Marketing and Treasury, third from left; and Mr. Diana Santos, PVP for Sales and Marketing (middle, left). Abe Concepcion expressed his gratitude to initiatives like MMPC which solely believes and supports Filipino athletes.

BMW
Prices upon request

Can't afford to drive one? Look the part

MERCEDES BENZ
1. Model cars - P5,000
3. Compact watch - P9,740
2. AMG backpack bag (left) P14,450 and rucksack P9,444

Text by Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Photos by Jerome C. Dumlao

FOR SOME FILIPINOS, DRIVING A high performance, multi-million peso luxury vehicle that will never fail to turn people's heads as it rips through the country's long and winding roads will remain an impossible dream.

But they can come a little bit closer by getting their hands on "lifestyle" products that bear the mark of their brand's genius.

The idea is, if they can't buy the car, they can at least get shirts, key holders, mugs, caps, bags, jackets or watches. The keys to the car can, hopefully, come later.

That there is a bigger legion of brand-agnostic than lifestyle products than the cars themselves is not lost on the manufacturers of these luxury vehicles, which is why Porsche, Audi, Mini Cooper, Mercedes-Benz and Maserati have exerted much effort to produce an extensive array of lifestyle products that deserve to have their brand emblem.

Current Motoring favorites have just some of these products. Warning: They do not come cheap.

HERMES
1. Plain Birkin bag P1,700
3. Tote bag P1,2,209 (H&M under P8,500)
2. Rubber shoes P12,229

PORSCHE
1. Backpack P1,234; Duffel bag P2,020;
3. Driver's Selection luggage - about P50,000; 4. Matchbox body boy - P6,191.61

AUDI
1. Baseball cap - P1,134
Pencil case - P1,260
2. Trolley bag P10,361

MASERATI
1. Cap P1,900
2. Key ring with charm P3,000
3. Cufflinks P6,000
4. Yachting collection bag P5,900

Prompt service keeps Toyota firmly at the top

By Charles E. Bahan

YOU CAN'T PUT A GOOD brand down.

Amid another small case in US and Japan, Toyota Motor Philippines received a big boost after country's best-selling automotive brand topped this year's edition of the Philippines Customer Service Index study released by JD Power-Asia Pacific.

The study surveys how satisfied new car owners are with their dealerships, asking them to comment about the quality of service, vehicle pickup, service initiation, service advisor and service facility.

Out of the 1,000 points a car brand could get, Toyota got an overall score of 865.

"This year's ranking is very noteworthy considering that Toyota is the only car brand in Asia above the industry average of 795," informs Raymund Rodriguez, TMP first vice president for vehicle sales operations.

Most welcome

The first place ranking is a welcome development for Toyota here in the Philippines after seven that 0.5 million retailers (models that are not sold here) were recalled beginning October because of problems with sticking accelerator pedals and other issues. Yours is, in fact, recalling another 270,000 units involving its luxury Lexus coupe and Camry subcompact sedans, not sold locally because of an engine fault.

"Surviving the highest ranking from one of the most credible automotive industry studies is indeed a big honor as well as a big boost for Toyota. This assures our customers that we will never stop in continuing to perform at a high level of effectiveness and efficiency," says Rodriguez.

He adds that the said survey is very important for Toyota as dealer service is a key point of contact with customers at this critical time when most people are weighing their next vehicle purchase.

The Philippine Customer Service Index finally is based on the responses of 1,612 new owners who purchased their vehicles between January 2008 and March 2009 and took their vehicle for service at an authorized dealer or service center between July 2008 and March 2009.

The survey showed that Filipino car-buyers were not reassured by the developments elected at Toyota still sold 46,351 units by the end of 2009, and in the process, retained its number-leading position gaining 35 per cent market share.

"We always tell our dealerships that quality of service should always be a top priority and the moment we lose sight of this objective, others would gladly take our place in the top ranking," says Rodriguez.

Indeed, this has been a reasonable reminder for the dealerships considering that Toyota, which has consistently topped the same survey for consecutive years, found itself ranked 6th last year.

Caveat relax

"The only dealers that you cannot relax. The drivers tell not 20 dealerships nationwide to maintain building customer loyalty in the after sales service stuff, improve the service facilities as well as raise the efficiency of the dealerships' workflow beginning from the set up of the service appointment to pick up the vehicle. The objective is how to reduce the amount of time that a customer must wait for service to be completed," explains Rodriguez.

This year's survey revealed servicing of their vehicles that takes no more than three hours or having the vehicles ready on the date originally promised are some of the things the surveyed customers really appreciated.

The survey further adds that Toyota performed particularly well in the two most important factors...vehicle pickup and service facility — as well as service facility.

Interestingly, the study also finds that advocacy and loyalty are closely related to satisfaction levels with the overall service performance of the dealer.

"Excellent service not only reinforces relationships with our customers who already loyal to Toyota brand. In the customer-first-line today, dealerships need to go beyond the call of duty and retain customers they have. We need to excel in turning unplanned repair-visits into opportunities to strengthen customer bond," believes Cesar Obon of Toyota Balintawak.

Indeed, these have been proved significant as nearly 60 per cent of highly satisfied customers surveyed say they 'definitely will' return as the same dealership for post-warranty service.

The 2010 Philippines Customer Service Index study now in its ninth year, measures the overall satisfaction of vehicle owners who visit an authorized dealer/service center for maintenance or repair work during the first 12 to 24 months of ownership.

MINI vs the Mountain

By Butch Santos

I LOVE SMALL CARS. SMALL CARS are fun to drive. You don't have to be fast to relish the car's performance. Most of our roads suit those small cars too. It's easier on gas and weave through traffic, more fuel efficient and quicker off the line due to their lower weight. Lastly, small cars are generally cheaper to buy and maintain. Some argue that small cars are tight and cramped. Others say they are less safe, particularly on a long drive. Challenging myself, I took a BMW Cooper S 6/T up the bargain possible route to Baguio and find out it's a run up to the mark.

Edna was the first challenge. Thick-speed 6/T-ish a tad harsh, shift-shock accompanying forward motion, and the suspension initially felt overly firm. But bugs when the road opens up, things will get better.

But on NLEX the MINI finally stretches its legs. At highway speeds the MINI feels as able high-speed cruiser. The 172hp engine and 220nm of torque from the 1.6 16-valve twincam direct injection turbocharged engine, mated with the 6-speed 6/T seems that the engine was spinning at a relaxed sub-2500rpm's.

Driving SLEX, the suspension was too great as I fanned the throttle in no less fast the MINI could go, and here lorky Orth Ac 2500rm/h here the MINI would go no more hitting an electronic speed limiter. But the ride is accustomed now even more amazing. Its driver, faster cars than the MINI, but the g-force setting on my body felt like any other 400-500hp exotic. And strong crosswinds did not affect the MINI's stability at all.

Joining the old highway traffic enters and once again I take time to study the cabin. Like the exterior, a MINI special. The interior looks back to Mini's old with a row of toggle switches and large rotary dials to activate the audio system, the power side windows, the HVAC and other in-car electronics. The interior was covered in smooth leather save for the seats which were of a cloth-and-leather looking fabric that felt rough and at the same time classy. There is enough room up front, but the rear seats are a joke, as I kept them flipped to the floor and loaded it up with my bags, a cooler filled with food and drinks, and other provisions. There's a surprisingly large amount of room inside, as I discovered, but not enough of it usable by humans.

The Magallan Trail would be a new test of the MINI's blueprinted front and multi-link rear suspension as the trail was rough coarsest to the point of being a dirt road in some places. I'd hit as fast as 140km/h, only to slow down due to the low suspension being kicked off the road. Its despite the firmness of the MINI, 1/01 isolation was good, you don't feel high-frequency vibration filtering into the cabin and steering pre-set, therefore.

Finally, visiting the Magallan Trail and joining the old highway again, Marcos Highway bedrock. The power delivery was perfectly mated out, the 6-speed automatic down shifting seemingly, the firm suspension having the passengers and occasional bumps on asphalt-drive into highways, and the beautiful, bed-some steering felt as after. Yes, Marcos Highway allows a car like the MINI to be so [illegible] and gunning hard, the steering Rolling like a bonsai. It beats any roads day experience. I've ever had, because I was 100 percent confident for the next 20 minutes.

A few days later, coming down, the MINI's brakes were to be put to its topmost test. Kennon Road is considered a most dangerous stage in testing a vehicle's overall performance potential and the MINI inhaled the challenge. Going down, I'd open up the throttle to allow it to build speed to be met with judicious braking. The 205/45R17 Yokohama tires were extinguished grip on the road, and the ABS/DSC brakes with cornering brake control never once staggered, a testament to the MINI's organically tuned chassis that doesn't need or rely on electronic safety wizardry although it is comforting to know that the MINI has those, along with dynamic stability and traction control.

Travelling done in 800 kilometers as that weekend, the MINI averaged in surrounding 10km/liter. Never missing a beat, always the fastest charging car on the road, no road was too steep or narrow, no gap too small for the MINI to squeeze through. The MINI is an all-time great, especially considering its price. Going up Baguio will never be the same again.

Lexus Manila clarifies new recall issue

By Alvin Uy

LOCAL LEXUS OWNERS NEED NOT WORRY about the new recall announcement announced in the US and Japanese markets.

Benny Ish, president of Lexus Manila, Inc., distributor of Lexus in the country, assured owners of Lexus cars purchased through 80% official dealerships are not affected by the recent recall.

However, Lexus Manila will be able to assure customers who have brought these models into the country prior to Lexus Manila's entry in the SP market.

Ish was referring to a recent Lexus announcement in the US market that it had contacted the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of its intention to file a Defect Information Report (DIR) regarding approximately 138,000 Lexus vehicles, powered by 4.6 and 5.0 liter V8 and 3.5 liter 6E-engines in certain 2006, 2007 and 2008 GS, IS and LS models in the US.

In the covered vehicles, due to slight variations during the manufacturing process, it is stated that it was possible that some foreign material may have entered the engine's fuel tank, causing the valve springs. If a vehicle is affected, there is a remote possibility that an abnormal engine noise or idling may occur. In extremely rare instances, the engine may stop while the vehicle is in operation.

Lexus was quick to point out that the estimated likelihood of a Lexus car experiencing this condition is a very low one-in-a-million occurrence. Of 17 percent probability So far, Lexus USA has not received any reports of accidents or injuries related to the condition as of this writing. Furthermore, it clarifies that vehicles from the current 2010 model year not 2009 are not affected by the recall.

Owners are advised that they can continue to drive their vehicles. If symptoms are noticed, such as vibration, rough idling, unusual engine sounds or poor performance, the vehicle should be brought to a Lexus dealer for service.

"It is a pre-emptive effort and is not a result of an accident. This involves the valve spring of certain engines that will result in a potential safety issue for engine with a number of units of a recalled vehicle. It has nothing to do with imminent danger. This recent development does not involve any of the models that are being sold by Lexus Manila," said Ish.

Ish added that the Special Service Campaign results from a continuing commitment of Lexus to guarantee the safety and comfort of its customers beyond the period of sale. This means that Lexus does not stop at evaluating every vehicle due it manufacture. Rather, it continues to explore and evaluate every particular model to monitor its performance over a long period of time.

"Lexus guarantees its customers its continuing efforts to ensure their safety, comfort and peace of mind when driving any Lexus vehicle," added Ish.

Lexus Manila was launched in January 2009 with the opening of an architecturally stunning building and showroom right at the heart of Fort Bonifacio Global City. Its initial line-up was composed of the flagship sedan LS460, ES350, GS460, IS300 and full-size SUV LX570.

Subsequent months saw the introduction of its crossover SUV RX350, and followed by the IS300C convertible with the power retractable roof. A total of 172 Lexus owners drove off the Lexus Manila showroom on its maiden year, getting a 13 percent share and 4th place in the luxury car market.

With Toyota's and Lexus' global issues combined with the fact that they have continued to address these issues their on, given rush and every Lexus and Toyota owner a sense of assurance that quality and safety is still on top of their consumer agenda.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Coordinating Editor Lucy S. Bernardo
LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Agnes Locsin finds refuge in her Davao garden

It holds the family mausoleum and the oldest swimming pool in Davao built before the war

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

CHOREOGRAPHER AGNES Locsin finds solace and inspiration in her plants and dogs. When she's not in the dance studio in Davao City, she lets off to the family farm on the border of Mintal and Tugbok.

Like most landscapes of mid-to-do families in the provinces, a big portion is untouched by human hands. Still, there are portions where Locsin carves little dajatins.

The property is divided among Locsin's relatives. It holds the family mausoleum and the oldest swimming pool in Davao built before the war.

"The area was dark. It was a forest—a thicket of bamboo. We grew up surrounded by big trees. The roads were rocky so that it was an effort to come here. We used to have picnics," she recalls.

Her mother Corazon Rabadon cut the trees that were no longer bearing fruit and planted new ones. She built a soil bases made of wood from lychee, mango trees, coco lumber—all of which came from the garden.

When Corazon started gardening, the land became her private paradise. She cultivated bougainvillea, her favorite, amid the acacia, cypress pines, sandpapertree, acacia and balete. She discovered that lychee trees make sturdy construction material.

Today, Corazon, who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, is under the care of Locsin in Davao City. Locsin attributes her gardening talent to her mother. It has become her therapy.

"I built away here with all my dogs," she says.

Locsin admits gardening doesn't come as easily as choreography.

"It has got very low care," she says.

At the start, everything was wild and green. She constantly curbed plants which flourished under sunlight or thrived under the shade, or transferred a piece from a pot to the ground.

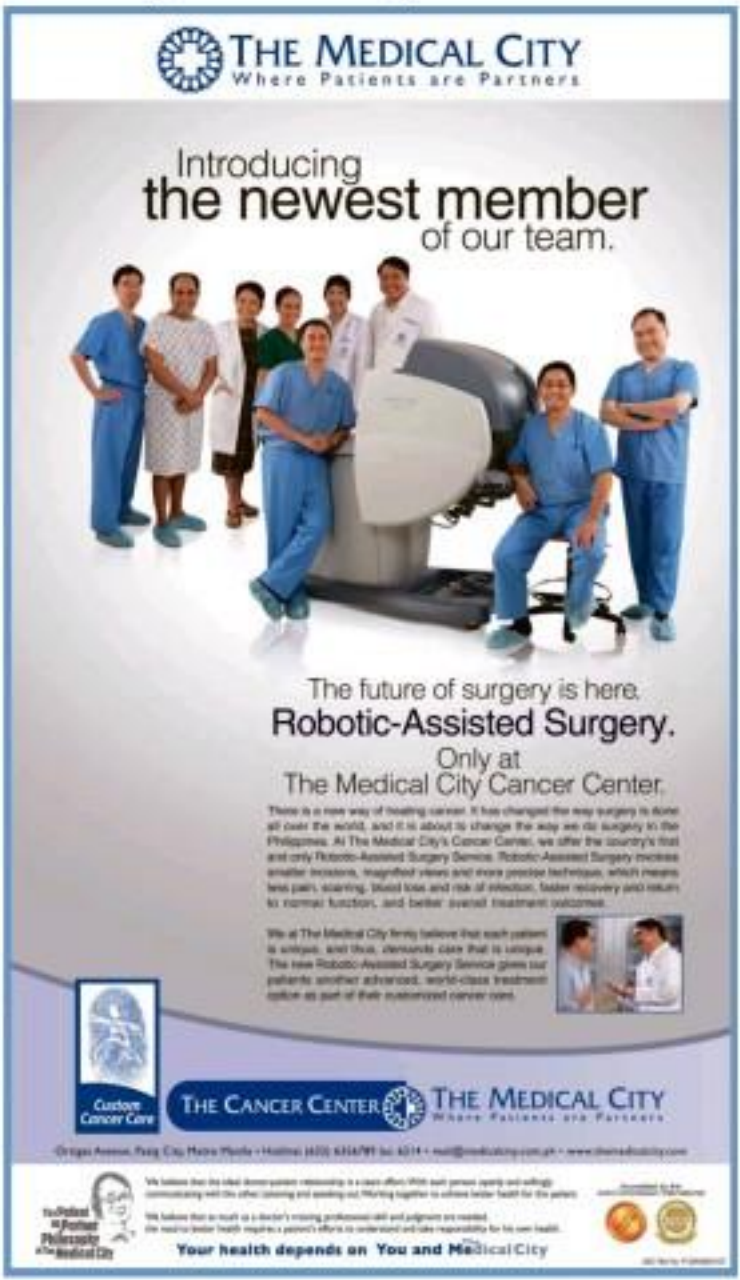
Spontaneous mixture

Typical of tropical landscapes, the place is a spontaneous mix of tall trees, broad plants, sweepers, vines, perennials and ornamentals, filling up every space.

It places, San Francisco hedges and lateral, to trees line the old gate and walls. The ground is carpeted with creeping grass.

Inspired by a city park, Locsin planted potato ground cover for color. The atmosphere is a lovely mix of mossy earth and floral scents. Flowering plants, though ordinary, such as heliconia, bougainvillea, antheri, ASHES GO

FLOWERING evergreen vines like arches clad the stone-covered hedges.



BOUGAINVILLEA, ti plants, cordyline fruticosum and bamboo are artfully composed.

TUMBONGA flowers complement the floral tile patterns on Davao's oldest swimming pool.

NATURE'S imperfections become artistic elements in the stunningly lighter "cigar" den.

FRANGIPANI flowers float on the stone-lined water elements amid the cactus and palms.

Agnes Locsin finds refuge in her Davao garden

To see page C1

(ammonia and yellow bells, Bauerah (to smother ants).

On her purchase for ornamentals, the artist says she is attracted to the shapes and color of the leaves. Flowers are merely accents.

Locsin plays around with stones used as border.

Potted plants mingle with Indian trees, ti plants and palms. She takes pride in growing mulberry trees and jacarandas. Elsewhere are fruit-bearing trees – mangosteen, pomelo, rambutan, antod, kamuning (aromas) and tamarind.

She cites the varieties of mango trees—mango Cebu, mangga Indupo and carabao mangoes. In Davao, native durian tree in a garden is expected. In the harvest season, big fruits just tumble to the ground.

"Don't walk under a durian tree. The fruit might fall on you," she warns.

There is pond water—shrubs hidden by the abundant water plants it nurtures.

Visual interest

Amid the jungle of vegetation are little corners of visual interest. The swimming pool is flanked by rambutan. Arches over stone-lined pleasures and fountains are covered with creepers.

A piece of history, a bombshell dangles from a mango tree.

A part of the landscape comes to life with the symphony of birds.

Locsin gets stimulated in her garden. She even steps over a mango tree knocked down by the winds. In the end, fallen trunks become decorative elements.

There is a sacred plot in the garden where Locsin's father-sans laid to rest. As mi'mango, it is covered with bromeliads whose roots adds life, a gentle reminder of his love still alive in his heart.

Meanwhile, the cluster of Carmen's red papaitas and the twin house serve as her memory of her mother in her babyon days.

INDIAN trees and tall and short bamboo line the backyard.

LOCSIN'S section of the garden is akin to a forest where plants are untamed by human hands.

LANAI of the Locsin home, made of stones and wood culled from the garden, has served as a stage for ballets.

POTTED kamgámilina and sansi are juxtaposed with cordyline, red palms, date palms.

PICTUS shrubs and Jacaranda against an old stump.

French art and life in seven scents

THE PRINCE JARDINIER LINE OF EAU de Toilette consists of seven premium fragrances.

Labyrinthe Liberté evokes an invigorating walk in a French garden. It features the scents of box foliage touched by flowering floral notes.

Eau de Prince Jardinier has a highly original woody fragrance of a Canadian conifer and balsam fir that leaves a soothing hint of incense on the skin.

Cité mon Jardin! offers the piquancy of rhubarb and the warmth of warm vanilla, while Bonjour ce Rose adds a hint of nature to the fresh and delicate scent of roses.

Citron Allegro is humid as a grapefruit zest with a light woody base for good sensuality.

Arboretum, a woody fragrance, combines the cool and warm notes of the tender growth with the scents of pine, fir and oak moss.

Promenade Enchantée, the lastest fragrance from Le Prince Jardinier, has fruity lemons and bergamot wobbling with hints of orchids and jasmine from a base of sandalwood.

The fragrance creator, Prince Louis Albert de Broglie, is well-known for his heritage preservation work. He acquired and restored the renaissance Château de la Bussardaudière in the Loire Valley as well as Beyerlin, the mythical 1880s Paris institution famous for its display of stuffed animals, butterflies, shells and minerals.

His passion for the botanical garden gave him the nickname "Le Prince Jardinier," a name which he also adopted for the brand he created for the gardening arts, which features a collection of handmade gardening tools, accessories and clothing using natural materials and fibers.

Le Prince Jardinier has expanded to line to include furniture, decorative objects and accessories for the home, and artisan fragrances.

LE PRINCE Jardinier's Château jardin Eau de Toilettes at night. Prince Louis Albert de Broglie, "Le Prince Jardinier"

The complete collection of fragrances from Le Prince Jardinier is available exclusively at AC+KOL 2/F Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati; tel. 7562564, 7562597; e-mail acol2@pldalac.com.

DEYROLLE, the 1800s natural-science company saved by the prince from collapse, is the last of its kind in the middle of Paris.

RECTANGULAR mirrors and brownstop-like make for clean, contrasting lines in the conference room.

BAR area wins bar stools

ARTIFICIAL grass, the kind used in indoor golf courses, blankets the side patio.

Modern—but a warm kind of modern

By Alex Y. Vergara

QUEZON CITY'S RESTO SCENE IS bound to offer a more exciting and stylish dining experience with the opening later this month of Cerchio, a restaurant/grill with mid-century inspired black-and-white interiors designed by Ivy Almario.

Located near the corner of Tomas Morato Ave. and Scout Limbaga St., Cerchio, or circle in Italian, is Almario's updated take on the mid-century modern look reminiscent of old homes in Palm Springs, California.

The look also became quite popular in the late '50s and early '60s among certain Hollywood decadents who probably grew tired of over-the-top baroque interiors once associated with movie stars of an earlier generation.

"Frank Sinatra's house was mid-century modern," says Almario. "In most some of the homes featured in many early issues Bond films."

The two-story establishment with an open-air bistro on the ground floor and semi-enclosed patio on the first floor has nine couches patterned in circular and rectangular motifs found on wall and ceilings.

While the first floor is sleek, modern and virtually open, the second floor has a lounge-y, lived-in feel. Besides its sofa dominated by oversized upholstered chairs, glossy plastic accent and leather-bound books mixed in black-and-white color prints marked over a series of shelves.

Hollow circular patterns made of metal are set against glass sheets to let natural light in, without allowing cold air-conditioned air to escape. These white circular elements are repeated on black mirrored columns on the first floor.

"It's my take on brownstone tiles, which were popular in the '50s," says Almario of the circular patterns. "Normally, you don't put a sheet of glass before or after these tiles to allow natural air to flow freely. Since the place is air-conditioned, I had to make certain modifications."

Almario, one of the country's leading interior designers, also purposely limited the color scheme to black, white and touches of gray as an ideal foil to the thirty-odd grilled items the restaurant intends to offer.

CIRCULAR motif and black-and-white color scheme define the mid-century look in the Quezon City grill.

For the new restaurant Cerchio, interior designer Ivy Almario opts for mid-century-inspired black-and-white interiors

KEWL INSPIRED images as he adorns second-floor wall

SECOND-FLOOR open-air terrace for smokers

"I wanted to do something modern, but a unique kind of modern," she says. "I figured that since a grill is associated with fire, there would be less smoke and I'd opted for color. We want people who come here to feel relaxed."

Contrasting colors

The contrasting color scheme is repeated in giant images of knives and forks printed on frosted stickers. These stickers, in turn, are stuck on glass panels lit from behind by a series of lights.

The knife, for instance, are a focal point in the conference room with and top of the second floor, echoing the shape of dangling lighting fixtures that are more modern Gothic than anything.

The same frosted stickers, this time featuring giant black-and-white images of trees, are on a large glass panel that shields the "toilet" room from public view. For one, the drapes lets the natural light in without compromising user privacy. It also reminds us of whenever plant (still) into a medium for pop art.

"Since the ladies' room is not that big, it would have felt too claustrophobic had I utilized it as well," says Almario.

Apart from the hosts, Almario and husband Tony Mirto and their partners Bistro and Smoky Significant, Anton Fortuna, Carlos Ng and Chequi Lim were guests to "provide the color."

Familiar touches

Quezon City fashion shouldn't wonder if they find Cerchio's color scheme and various touches unusually similar to that of nearby Rumahi Café, a fairly new property serving home-style and stylized Filipino dishes at the corner of Dr. Lazcano and Scout Tuazon Streets.

Apart from also doing Rumahi Café's interiors, Almario's other company also serves as caterer for the restaurant (owned after the late Carlos P. Romulo, one of the partners' grandfather). It passed the test by Almario and Mirto as

ALVIN Fortuna and Tony Mirto, one of the seven partners behind Cerchio

BREEZEWAY tiles are set against a glass door so long-cold air in.

RETRO touches extend to the lounge and circular accent pieces.

HARDBOUND books covered in colors prints and stacked on several shelves on the second floor

Exciting July Events at SM MALL OF ASIA

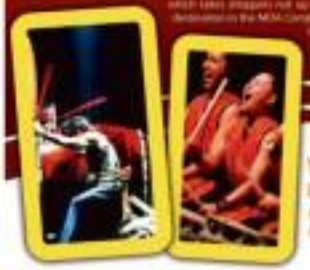
Living up to its claim to be the country's top lifestyle mall, SM Mall of Asia continues to provide Filipino shoppers with the best shopping, dining, entertainment, and leisure experiences they won't find anywhere else. This July, get ready for a giant concert event featuring a certified R&B superstar and the biggest sale of the season—two more reasons to spend this wonderful month with friends and family at MOA! Shop, dine, and be seen at the SM Mall of Asia and find out just why no other mall comes close.

The Biggest End of Season Sale

July 2 to 11, 2010

Shop at SM by July 11 and enjoy up to 70% off on selected items. Where else can you find such a deal—the best and biggest brands, convenient mall services, and all the mall discounts? So hurry, the only thing left to do is to choose, fit, and purchase.

In SM Mall of Asia, shopping is always a breeze with the host of convenient services designed to suit all. From their arrival, their cars are Paid Valet to ease the hassle of going around the parking lot for an available space. Shopaholics won't run away around their shopping bags as they can turn to the Package Pick-Up—a service that allows them to collect all their purchases at a single area where they can pick their packages up before calling their shopping day finished. There's also the Shuttle Service, which takes shoppers not up to the walk around the mall to their destination in the MOA Complex. SM Mall of Asia is also connected to the Mall via Mall, which gadget-equipped shoppers can access for free.



Yamata: Drummers of Japan

July 8, 2010 | Centre Stage | 7:30 PM
July 9, 2010 | Music Hall | 7:30 PM

One of the best Japanese taiko groups return to the Philippines to herald the annual celebration of the Philippines-Japan Friendship Month. Yamata is coming to SM Mall of Asia for a gala performance at the Centre Stage. The Japan Foundation Manila has teamed up with the SM Supermalls to bring to the Filipino audience the dynamic performances of this Japanese musical group.

The Yamato drummers came from the Nara prefecture in Japan's western region, whose former name was Yamato no Kuni (Yamato Province) and credited to be the birthplace of Japanese culture. Their chosen instrument, the taiko—a great drums often used in classical and folk Japanese music—are works of art in themselves and coupled with the talent of the Yamato drummers, they churn out a harmony of beautiful percussion with that distinct Japanese flavor.

Usher Live in Manila

July 9, 2010 | SM MOA Concert Grounds | 8 PM

Get ready for another sizzling concert event by the bay as Usher heats up SM Mall of Asia this July 9! The American R&B superstar will be coming to Manila for a Friday night filled with the marvelous tunes from his latest album, Raymond v. Raymond—his third consecutive album to debut at the top of the US Billboard 200 Chart.

Named as one of the most successful musicians of the decade, Usher has taken the R&B scene by storm with his debut album, My Way, which was released in 1997. This member of global music royalty has also received numerous awards and accolades including five Grammy Awards, four World Music Awards, four American Music Awards, eight Soul Train Music Awards, and 19 Billboard Music Awards. Usher is also the first artist to have a number one single on both the UK Singles Chart and the Billboard Hot 100 during the 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s.

This Fearless Production event is presented by McDonald's, the Kilia Shangri-La Hotel, FOX, GMA7, Ovation Productions, Manila Bulletin, 902 Live, and Star World. Usher Live in Manila is also brought to you by the following media partners: Magic 89.9, Monster Radio RX93.1, 96.3 Easy Rock, Mellow 94.7, 93.5 RT FM, 1452, 91.1 Retrogay LS, 96.7 Love Radio, 103.5 Max FM, Yes! FM 101.9, Wave 89.1, and Jam 88.3.

Usher's latest album, Raymond v. Raymond is available at leading music stores and record bars nationwide. For more information and updates from this American R&B superstar, log on to www.asherworld.com.

LIFESTYLE *Parenting*

PLUGGED-IN Parents

Five parenting websites every parent should bookmark

Ditch the guesswork with these helpful online resources

By Tatin Yung
Contributor

MY MOM'S GUIDE TO raising us kids were an old, battered copy of Dr. Spock's "Baby and Child Care" (the pediatrician, not the pointy-eared Star Trek commander), plus hand-me-down advice from her mom and other parents, the occasional article in Good Housekeeping or Redbook, even the example of TV moms in popular shows.

I was my mother's guinea pig for various discipline techniques. I got spanked in the rump, which stopped when a more benevolent parenting style became popular in the early '90s. I was asked to "stand in the corner and face the wall," per the recommendation of one of her friends (she heard all of five minutes, when she realized she needed me to run up the stairs to fetch her eyeglasses), and the grounding, no-cell-phone combo.

Nowadays, parenting has become another hot topic on the Web, and it's easy for a new parent or a parent new to the Internet to become overwhelmed with all the information available.

Here are some helpful online resources parents should keep on their radar:

1. Real Simple

(www.realsimple.com)

Real Simple lives up to its name by keeping its material elegantly simple, sensible and, most of all, easy to live by. Get insights on family life, tips on how to handle finances, home organization, pet care and practical guidelines on many day-to-day living.

2. Ohdeedoh

(www.ohdeedoh.com)

Having children doesn't mean having to live with messy, cramped, stickered walls. You can have your kids and their trappings live with your preferred aesthetic with the help of Ohdeedoh's design-crunch site. Learn how to brighten up your child's room and decorate it in a way that appeals to your child's whimsy and yet will let him or her grow into it as a teen (read: more chic-to-preteen, less Winnie-the-Pooh-frolicking on the walls). Ohdeedoh also contains practical and timely stories on raising technology-wise parenting, toys for tots and even nice DIY tips for a kid-friendly abode.

3. Motherlode: Adventures in Parenting

(http://parenting.blogs.nytimes.com)

A blog run by New York Times contributing writer Lisa Belkin, this site contains articles on the hilarious side of parenting. Belkin offers anecdotes and tidbits of trouble found all over the Net. She is the reason a mother says-allyes—to the tune of William Tell's Overture. She also tackles topics such as recent being exposed to alcohol, teaching kids manners, breastfeeding in public and other empathetic stories any parent of any age can relate to.

TYS, D4

REAL Simple

CAMARINES Sur governor Lilay Villafuerte and TV host/model Marc Nelson

IN MEMORY of the dearly departed Jed Rose Bokaing, who went to heaven after an emergency delivery operation to give birth to his baby girl Lara Jed Rose

ISABELLE Daza and Adrian Sombito

MARCO Alcaraz and Lara Quigaman

RAYMOND Gutierrez and Pargo Ballen

Celebrities have fun at Camsur's 3-day Aquafest

JOEY Sarmiento with his lady love Cucay Moraz

ALEX Mendoza and Ramon Cacho

SAM DE SMEYE with Carla and Susan Robertson

WATER SPORTS AND some of San Miguel brothers were featured as the 2nd Lagoc del Rey Summer Aquafest held at the renowned Lagoc del Rey lakeside of Camsur Watersports Complex (CWC), with dazzling celebrities, dabblings, unending the memorable three-day event.

The Aquafest was bold and daring, with exciting competitions. All those were enjoyed by the guests at the breathtaking Lagoc del Rey, "which is fast becoming an other water sports haven drawing local and foreign enthusiasts," said Camarines Sur Gov. Lilay Villafuerte.

Lagoc del Rey is an 18-hectare manmade lake right across the road from the fabulous waterbased cable lake of the CWC resort, now known all over the world for offering the best entertainment facilities to fun dabblings. It's as in line with Governor Villafuerte's vision of making Camsur the mecca of sports tourism.

The Aquafest was successfully organized by Marlon Nuñez and his cold cold cold team from Lavalhas, and supported by headmen Hugo Boss, Hawaiian Tropics, Republic, Gov. Lilay Villafuerte, and the Province of Camarines Sur.

At the end of each day, it was chill-out time at the poolside, with everyone getting that partying feeling till midnight, palangpas.

Hendrick's Gin launch

It was so awesome, unusual sights when Pirmate Wine & Spirits invited us to the launch of the super Hendrick's Gin, dabdogs. I was so surprised when I arrived at The Filipinas Heritage Library premised in Ambiloi I thought I was in the wrong event. I remembered the institution saying, "it would be unusual but classy." There it all made sense, palangpas. The ladies in cutest outfits threw me for a loop, along with Bernard Ingles, brand manager of Asia Pacific. Hendrick's is supercharming, hotel ambiance under drama. Terrell, who acted in Four England, explained, "Gin was originally discovered when a perfumer of medicines was trying to control a cure for stomach complaints, using the diuretic properties of juniper berries."

Remembering my school days in London, a wise man once said: "A gin is a gin is a gin...it's the first Civil mistress."

The first premium white spirit was introduced by the famous William Grant and Sons, a distillery with over 100 years of experience producing some of the world's finest single malt Scotch whiskies.

I had planned to lounge in and out, but after one glass of Hendrick's, I opted for three more, would you believe?

Cucay Moraz was responsible for the night successfully-ever.

As sunset everyone had such a pleasant buzz they stayed longer than the designated time.

Hendrick's cocktails were served like Hendrick's & Tonic, Bath, Martini and Basil smash, polangpas, available at Distillery, Mother's Only, Marrinet's, Tucans, Ambos, Nieves, Kidap among others, available for dinner rolling on Premier Wines Inc. and soon at SM.

My birthday party

It seems that a belated birthday celebration is the "thing" these days with celebrities finding time to be hosted by friends. Well, palangpas, I was one of those, with Cesare Mundin's swanky lunch lunch and the afternoon tea-set dazzle-polished for those charitable causes and fund-raisers leading the celebration. Party organizers and dedicated hosts for my birth every year were Mel Llarenas, Nene Lozano, May Steel, Cristal Wallin Mones, Chit Salud. They made the events super fun for all the invitees who could not say "no" to the special invitations.

The toasty cool and breezy Makati's Manila Golf Club was echoing with gossip on fashion and politics as guests marched on the yummy hors d'oeuvres from Lorenzo's.

And suffice that, I'd like to thank you all for remembering me as we all had fun, dabdogs.

LJ PUA, Mike Tolosa, Hendrick's' Jamie Terrell and crew

MOI with my little friends and besties at sunday Hendrick's

MARK DY and Deepa Manaakhani

YESS Cueto, Rosie Jacques, Fanny Bruno, Anabelle Adriano and Rosie Lopez

MY FRIENDS Frank Ocampo, Ricky Chavez, Marc Lumbino and Bobby Navarrete (back) our photographer Alex Van Hagen, me, and George Tanseco

BEN WHITLE, Bobby Yap, Jeremy Marquez, Luis Contreras, Carlos Concepcion, Michelle Madrigal and Carla Humphries

JOH HALL

LJ MORENO

MARLEN Nuñez and Edd Fuentes

FITIANE Tiongson, Bruce Tiongson, mel and Agnes Rubcobos

CINT Salud and Heidi Mg

CHONA Lopez and my assistants Ricky Zuleta

TESSIE Briones, Glory Mojares and Perry Jalbuena

BARF Figueroa, Nora Robles, Alex Samson and Berna Lemoran

EDNA Lindibar and Baby Cruz

(SEATED) Karen Mascuaan, Former Lesbrena, Nene Lozano and Helen Ong; (standing) Baby Ortiz, Mei Linares, mel, Baby de Jesus and Mollie Alonzo

MAY Mel

JUSTA Tamara, Nene Lozano, Lei Ejercito, Nenia Bacilio and Baby Antonio

New maternity wear for stylish women

PREGNANCY CLOTHES ARE NO longer the unflattering garments of yesteryears.

A couple of years ago the words "maternity" and "fashion" meant leggings, fashion and oversized everything. Maternity fashion is practical, flattering and most of all stylish, meaning your own look so "not when you're pregnant as you would if you weren't."

Today's mama-to-be are looking for maternity wear that can make them look great and feel great throughout their pregnancy. Seriously, just because you are pregnant does not mean you have to miss out on all the latest trends.

Human's introduces their new maternity line, Belle Mama, for chic moms-to-be. It is designed for expectant mothers who prefer classic staples with a splash of trendy.

The brand offers a wide variety of maternity/pregnancy clothes from fashion to party wear. Clothes were designed with the idea that you can maintain that yet pregnancy stylish look and still be comfortable during the pregnancy.

To kick off summer, designer Hindy Weber Tantoco put a nautical spin to the in-house maternity line. Take your pick from lightweight knit dresses to cardigans under flared with gold braid wear which one can layer over simple tank tops and ruffled shorts.

Jumpsuits and harem pants are must-have items. Yes, even pregnant moms can totally rock these outfits! Easy long linen cardigans paired with throw-on dresses are perfect for any summer getaway. Color-block mini dresses and halter maxi dresses are perfect stay-in-bench staples.

Every mom-to-be must work on a few basic items that she can wear any day. Aside from the trendy pieces, Belle Mama offers basic tees to tank tops perfect to accommodate one's growing belly. Expect to find new pregnancy favorites with perfect fit basics.

Belle Mama also offers unique gift items for moms-to-be. Statement shirts come in ready-to-gift pouch bags which read cute sayings like "Bookin' This Belly," "Bookstar Mamma," "Belly Intent" and "Hot Mamma." These shirts can be paired with any thing—from shorts to leggings. An expectant mom will definitely appreciate these shirts with an smile.

Belle Mama is exclusively available on Human's Malcati, Edsa Shangri-La and Alabang Town Center.

TWO-TONED cardigan with gold borders, tank tank top and banded shorts

COLOR-BLOCK halter dress

BILLIE Mama "Rockin' this Belly" attitude shirt (with matching pouch), gray harem pants

BLACK jersey jumpsuit

PRINTED Shirt dress

MIRIAM Quiambao

ERWIE and Jenna Ilapit

GWEN Zamora

KARLYN Pantaleon and Bryan Javier

REP SONNY and Tsong Aragon

TESSA Prieto-Valdes and Glenn Gilonga

2 new mobile phones help enhance one's daily activities

MIKE Clemo, Samsung business advisor

GABBY Konigbuk and Pao-dol Rosario

RAF and Gabi Montes

PATRICK Tan and Ina Lirios

AMINA and Rafa Alonso

SAMSUNG, A LEADING mobile-phone provider, has introduced Galaxy S (model I9000) and Samsung Wave (model S8500)—two latest breakthroughs in mobile smartphone technology which combine the best possible hardware with slim, intelligent technology, an integrated mobile experience that pushes the benchmark of the mobile lifestyle.

At a press conference held at White Space in Bonifacio Triton, Samsung director and head of mobile phones Glenn Clemo along with Globe Telecom brand head Cathy Santillanes introduced the consumers' partner/tip as fascinating feature will be exclusively available to Globe subscribers who avail of the P1,699 plan until July 31. The subscribers will also get one month of "super fast" access to the phones exclusive content.

Clemo's experience of the powerpacked Galaxy S mobile phone.

The venue was transformed into a kinetic wonderland with silver balls hovering over the guests to represent the constant movement of technology. The stage was surrounded by cameras that responded on all sides, giving a seamless, dynamic visual experience.

Host Bianca Morris invited Clemo, Santillanes, Samsung advisor for mobile phones Michael Chavez, product marketing head Coco Domingo and Globe postpaid acquisitions head Debbie Haw on stage to entertain the queries of the media. Raffle prizes were given away and a wonderful lunch buffet from G. Isa was served.

Held as the same venue, the evening launch celebrated a leap in mobile-phone technology, featuring dancers and sportsmen as well as invited guests, who were clad in elegant black and silver, mingled about to the finger area as hors d' oeuvres and sparkling wines were passed around.

Soon, they were led by DJ Imani host Tessa Prieto-Valdes into the main hall. The All Stars gathered in the line and the screens were revealed.

Clemo welcomed everyone and introduced the Galaxy S and Wave mobile phones. Live musicians held the hour excited and paraded on stage in fleet Alexander McQueen-inspired outfits from various local designers. They teamed around the room showing off the latest phones from Samsung and the guests shared their smiles and oohs with the phones' brilliance and technological beauty.

Guest speakers Aaron Aquino and Matthew Mendoza took the stage after the Samsung Wave and Galaxy S videos were played on the panoramic HD screens. They expounded on how the phones can enhance their daily activities and highlighted Samsung's philosophy of the "Smart Life"—one that unites consumers with almost smartphones and how they interact with them through fun, easy to use-to-use services and technologies.

Through the suspenseful music, Ryzl Bianca Dizon provided a symphonic orchestration of tones and sounds. The musicians of Samsung Galaxy S and Samsung Wave were ratified off to two lucky guests. The night continued on as DJ Toni Dalusong took played upbeat house tunes.

Held around the "Smart Life" concept, the Galaxy S is packed with state-of-the-art features encased into one sleek package body 9.9 mm thick). Users will be delighted by the huge four-inch Super AMOLED screen, which offers the ultimate viewing experience with its brightest, clearest and less reflective images.

Take time to enjoy viewing HD videos powered by a 1 GHz processor or reading ebooks the way you're meant to with a normality font, easy text search and intuitive book list management. Take your work with you and will ease with ThinkFree application for viewing and editing Microsoft Office 2007 documents, or write short first then send them later to a format of your choice—SMS, MMS, email, calendar or memo.

Share files easily through 4.0 Share, which utilizes device connectivity via Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA) technology. Marvel at its augmented reality browser, Layar, which provides real-time locations based search.

Do all these and more with the TouchWiz 3.0 user-interface, which provides quick access, finger. An easy text input while on-the-go and a generous memory of 16GB or 8GB storage. Lastly, the Galaxy S is powered with Google's Android operating system, which supports nearly 100,000 applications from Android Market and Samsung Apps.

Similar in beauty and performance, the Samsung Wave Amoled 3.3-inch screen, 4.0-megapixel 1 GHz processor for advanced graphic performance, HD video capability to record and watch videos in superior quality, TouchWiz 3.0 for fast, effortless usage and 2GB memory to store all files.

Wave runs on the Bada Open Platform operating system, which provides users with a home-like platform that allows phone customization through downloadable applications, including games, news, health plus other exciting and interactive Samsung apps.

Both models are equipped with Social Hub, to keep up with one's social media by anywhere and anytime, by bringing contacts and inbox messages with Facebook and Twitter accounts. At a glance, chat with friends, view SMS messages and read e-mail.

GLENN Gilonga, Cathy Santamaria, Debbie Chio, Michael Clemo and Coco Domingo

RENEE Jimenez, Red Hopkinsmith, Randy Ortiz, JC Buenida and Pen Roque

JANELLE So, Debbie Velarde, Jenn Bulos and Monica Llenos

GLOBE executives Martha Sazon and Leah de Guzman

ROBBI Carlos and Tippi Dumpit

Get the Samsung Galaxy S now through Globe's P2,499 post-paid plan and the Samsung Wave available at all authorized Samsung Mobile dealers nationwide at P19,999. Visit www.samsung.com/ph.

Are you a mindful parent?

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Cabatbat

I TOO, AS MUCH AS I CAN, TRY to be a mindful parent.

However, life can be complicated and the hours of everyday living can get in the way of the practice of mindfulness.

Sometimes, it's our children who remind us and show us how to truly live in the moment. Last night, my daughter's photographer for her college paper, dressed sexy as crazy she wrote while we were in San Francisco last month.

I was deeply moved and humbled by this 19-year-old who has this kind of perspective. She's truly sensitive and mindful of her surroundings, she exists.

It realized we are only as people as pain-wrong we place, events and things in parts... Always hoping to go against the typical. I attempted to shoot things from another angle, more detail-oriented than concerned with the overall impact. I also tried that it is a perfect juxtaposition to the way I train mentors. I didn't show a family member against the blue skies of Tres 24, I opted instead to focus on one as we lost by the piece—his face turned toward the sun, eyes closed, the wind pulling his whiskered mouth into the semblance of a smile. It was dreamy, his expression perfectly portrays how I felt about being with my family these past few weeks.

"I didn't shoot the exterior of the library we went to of course because, really mostly, from now I know I won't remember if the door were automatic or not and what color the flowers were in the limited hedges outside. I shot the books, colorful and usually lined side-by-side like the soldiers—their pages embossed and crumbling from the many years they've been there. It was those same second-hand books I were through in the '90s made it novel!" Um, what I consider the best shopping I did on the entire trip. Books have more

characters than clothes, after all. I shot my brother's hands excitedly running over the model of the Collegiate version we saw in the science museum. You can almost hear him, whisper "this one! best him, when I'm old enough, I'll study this big, Am?" as his eyes literally widened in wonder.

I shot food instead of restaurant entrances on my family outing, because I know that in the future, I will remember the taste of juicy Dungeness crab running down my chin or the fresh, and oddly shrimp from the bay to the most succulent sweet and spicy Arrabbiata sauce as opposed to the name of the restaurant we ate in. Gone are the days when I asked for a good photo, and now eaters the day when I shoot things as they are, and how I will remember them. This all made me wonder... could it be that I was starting to see life within this new perspective as well?

Present in the here and now

This entitled the piece "Mindless Musings" lol. But was mindfulness at its best. Her photos and writing reminded me of how important it was to be fully present in the here and now, to be mindful of the moments that come and go.

Mindfulness expert Jon Kabat-Zinn, author of "Wherever You Go, There You Are," and Myla Kabat-Zinn, children's educator, nurturing awareness and environmental activist, wrote about how we can be more mindful parents in their book "Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting."

Here are some of those ways.

• See your children, perfect just the way they are. Stay mindful of their sovereignty and accept them as they are when it is hardest for you to do so.

• Be mindful of your expectations from your children and consider whether they are rooted in your child's best interest. Also, be aware of how you communicate those expectations and how they affect your children.

• Apologize to your child if you have behaved his trust. Apologies are healing. An apology demonstrates you have thought about a situation and have come to see it more clearly, or perhaps more from your child's point of view. But be mindful of being "sorry" too often. It loses its meaning if you are always saying it, making regret into a habit. Then it can become a way not to truly responsibility for your actions.

• There are important times when we need to be clear and strong, and unequivocal with children. Let this come as much as possible out of awareness, generosity and discernment, rather than out of fear, self-righteousness or the desire to control. Mindful parenting does not mean being overindulgent, apathetic, weak, rigid, dominating and controlling.

• The greatest gift to give your child is your self. This means you have to keep growing as self-knowledge and awareness. Make time for contemplation.

The last point highlights the importance of self-care, always knowing something for ourselves, it is not selfish to tend this. After all, we cannot be mindful if we are not all used to on your voice. At the end of the day, we cannot give what we do not have. Joy, peace and mindfulness always begin with each one of us.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Who will enforce Supreme Court ruling on credit card interest rates?

THE CONSUMER
Linda E. Ardole

SOMEBODY SENT ME A COPY OF A 2009 decision of the Supreme Court's Third Division that surprisingly did not seem to promote the interest it deserved, particularly from credit card holders.

The decision (http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/jurisprudence/2009/september2009/175000.htm), promulgated on Sept. 17, 2009, involved a complaint by Emma Macalinao against penalty charges imposed by the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) for her credit card's unpaid balance.

Supreme columnist Raul J. Sabalza Jr., a lawyer, wrote about the Supreme Court decision (G.R. No. 175000), penned by Associate Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., in his column on Mar. 6, 2009.

Raul wrote: "The credit card agreement between BPI and Macalinao states that balances that remain outstanding after the stipulated payment date shall bear interest at the rate of 3 percent per month and an additional penalty fee equivalent to 3 percent per month.

"BPI sued Macalinao at the metropolitan trial court for the unpaid amount, plus 3.25-percent finance charges and late payment charges of 6 percent, or a total of 9.25 percent a month, which is equivalent to 111 percent a year."

BPI maintained that the charges were "reasonable at the same amount to the Terms and Conditions Governing the Issuance and Use of the BPI Credit Card."

But the high court said: "We are of the opinion that the interest rate and penalty charge of 3 percent per month should be equitably reduced to 2 percent per month or 24 percent per annum."

The Supreme Court said: "We need not mention the principle we had established in a plethora of cases that stipulated interest rates of 3 percent per month and higher are excessive, inequitous, unconscionable and unenforceable stipulations are void for being contrary to morals, if not against the law."

It added that while the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (LE. Circular No. 905-82 dated Jan. 1, 1983) "effectively removed the ceiling on interest rates for both secured and unsecured loans, regardless of maturity, nothing in the said circular could possibly be read as granting carte blanche authority to lenders to raise interest rates to levels which would either confront their borrowers or lead to a hemorrhaging of their assets."

Concerning with the decision were Associate Justices Conrado Vasquez Jr., Antonio H. Nachura and Diosdado M. Peralta.

Covers all cards

I asked Raul for clarification if the high court's ruling on interest rates covered both original interest charged on each card use, as well as penalty charges for nonpayment. He said it applied to all interest charges and cited the relevant portion of the decision: "We [justices] are of the opinion that the interest rate and penalty charge of 3 percent per month should be equitably reduced to 2 percent per month or 24 percent per annum."

My other question to Raul was if the ruling on interest charges applied to all credit card issuers, including multinationals. If I remember correctly, BPI has announced a reduction in its monthly interest rate to less than 3 percent, but multinationals, from what I know, still charge 3.5 percent or something, definitely not less than 3 percent.

Raul's reply: "The Supreme Court ruling applies to all credit cards issued in the country, including those issued by or administered by multinational banks."

He said cardholders should go "for relief" to the Department of Trade and Industry, in line with its mandate on consumer protection."

The die rewarded

A few days before May ended, I got a text message from Smart informing me that I had over 25,000 reward points that I had to redeem immediately because they would expire in June. I was told that for every 5,000 points I could get 100 free text messages.

I asked if I could exchange my reward for something else but I was told unfortunately that was not allowed. So I sent four text messages to claim 400 free text messages. (They would not accept one message to claim all 400).

Every text message got the reply that I would have my freebies within 48 hours. It did not happen. I got the rewards three or four days after I sent a text message to redeem them.

Still, I was happy to have 400 free text messages but a few days into June, my balance of 300 free messages suddenly vanished. When I asked why, I was told the freebies also expired in June. How did I want it to be? I was told I could have 0 text and then "reward" points so I can stop doing what I was doing to get them. With all the aggravation being rewarded soured me. I would rather be an unrewarded instead of being dis-rewarded.

Send letters to The Consumer (Attn: Atchen, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 3109 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makiseda and Ayala Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 897-0783-94, or e-mail Dinkdo@inquirer.com.ph).

Tenor from Pampanga launches his album

LORENZO, THE YOUNG TENOR, inspiration from Pampanga, will launch his first album, "Rehearsing to Love," at a cocktail-concert on July 10, 6:30 p.m., at the Dargela in the Room Grounds, Cultural Center Complex. The CD was inspired by the memorable periods in the youthful artist's life, molded with an encouraging love for family, friends and country. The event will benefit the Healing Ministry of the Missionaries of the Immaculate.

He composed new melodies for "One Father," expressing gratitude for healing a loved one, and for the Mother of God, in "For Maria." He hails the hearts of Who who have faith for the improvement of their and their families' love in "How Grieving," encourages the youth to be conscious of change and development in "Sense of Direction," and lauds all mothers in "He's Im, Kuro ng Pag-ibig." The haunting song "Here or Say Goodbye" is a sentimental farewell to lost love while "With You I Can Home" is a grateful appreciation for his country.

Also included in the CD are the pop-ular "What Are You Doing The Rest of Your Life" and "My Heart Will Go On."

Lorenzo has been creating waves in successful performances in Singapore, Bahrain, Manila and Cebu sharing exquisite affinity and varied celebrations involving those who love crossover music.

Five parenting websites every parent should bookmark

From page D1

4. Plugged in Parents

(http://pluggedinparents.com)

This online resource, run mainly by Dr. Millard, a native practitioner, and her other team of experts, brush up on the practical side of parenting, covering topics such as all topics ranging from nutrition, entertainment to faith, aiming to reduce child safety. Millard's background as pediatric nurse practitioner (a growing trend in American healthcare) is helpful as her tips are backed up by her professional expertise. You can even consult her on concerns that haven't been addressed in her site, as well as connect to other blogs by moms.

5. Smart Parenting

(http://www.smartparenting.com.ph)

This homegrown online companion to Smart Parenting magazine is chock-full of topics young parents encounter. Extensive with, from health issues brought about by pregnancy, to child-rearing guides and tips. Experts on the latest kiddie products are also very helpful, as they also usually provide sensible local shopping sources and kid-friendly places and activities to try out in the metro.

You can also join and get in touch with other moms in Smart Parenting's forum community, and get tips on how popular celebrity moms deal with motherhood.

PHOTOS top left/Photos from Adventures in Parenting; Smart Parenting

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronze G. Pelarde

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Send your feedback: inquirer.net/customer/feedback.asp

Charice returns to 'Star King'

SINGING the Philippine National Anthem to general audience at President Aquino's inauguration. NOY LORCA

By Pocholo Concepcion

IT CHARICE OWES HER FAME TO YouTube, it must be noted that the first crucial video of the singer seen by millions worldwide was taken from her 2007 guest stint on the youth-forum TV talent show "Star King."

It was that initial performance (she appeared two times) on "Star King" which prompted American actress-TV host Ellen DeGeneres to invite—on air—the then 15-year-old Charice to come and guest on her own show. (It was not until the following year that Oprah Winfrey took her turn in hosting the Filipino talent on her own show.)

Full circle

Things will come full circle next week when Charice returns to "Star King" in conjunction with a first-country dates tour to promote her self-titled debut album with Warner Music.

The pint-size wonder, she revealed to the United States, Canada and Europe for the first part of the 16-leon promo tour.

According to a Vancouver-based website, which quoted Charice's mother Raquel "Rose Ba Letho's Twitter messages, the singer will be in Rome from July 11-13, she will tape an episode for "Star King" on July 12 to be aired July 18).

The rest of the tour schedule: Philippines, July 15-18; Japan, July 19-21; Thailand, July 21-22; and Malaysia, July 24-25.

The same website posted a news saying, "Charice's US manager has asked us to remove the schedule for the Philippines because it has not yet been confirmed."

But a source has confirmed, unofficially, that Charice will perform live at the following venues: July 15, Newport Plaza at Resorts World Manila (Pasay City); July 16, Venice Piazza at McKinley Hill (Fort Bonifacio, Taguig); and July 17, Eastwood Mall Open Grab (Libis, Quezon City).

There are not free shows, though. The source said one must buy Charice's CD for entry to the venues. All performances start at 8 p.m. (Call 7009880 for other details.)

The website said Charice's show in Thailand will be held on July 22, 7 p.m. at the Grand Hall, 1st floor, Siam Lumbini Gallery, Siam Shopping.

In Malaysia, she will have a 10-minute guest appearance on July 25, 6:30 p.m. at the Dragonfly Club, Jalan Ela Peng, Kuala Lumpur.

Charice's latest public performance in Manila was at President Aquino's inauguration at Quirino Grandstand, where she sang the National Anthem and was praised for her belting—and sticking to its original arrangement.

Before that, she formally launched her CD before a full-packed audience on May 23 at Ayala Malls' Glorietta 4 Park, Makati.

As for her much-anticipated stint on Season 2 of the musical-drama-comedy TV series "Glee," Charice told in a TV interview that shooting starts July 20. Season 2 premieres on September.

Beautiful OFW 'Sunday'

International film takes a bittersweet look at Pinoy workers in Taiwan

By Rayvi San Diego Jr.

'AMAZING, AMAZING'

Thus, Malaysian filmmaker Ho Ting Ho described Filipino actors—led by Eye Quinos, Bayani Agbayani, Meryl Soriano and Alessandra de Rossi—in his full-length feature debut, "Pinoy Sunday."

A product of Cinema Ilmu Ini's Ghetto Chefs' edition workshop in 2009, the film has become a multinational production. (Two of Ho's shorts, 2005's "Bugis" and 2008's "Summer Afternoon," premiered in Cannes.)

"For Pinoy Sunday' we worked with people from everywhere: Japan, France, the Philippines," Ho told reporters.

The film now completes by Ho and Indian cinematographer Ajay Mahtani. One multi-episodic was Jake Pollock, an American. But the Pinoy actors were the film's heart and soul, the director insisted.

"I couldn't think of Taiwanese actors who could play Eye and/or Bayani's roles," he said. Quinos and Agbayani play a mismatched pair of overseas Filipino workers who carry a network all over Taipei.

Quest

"Chemistry" was Ho's main consideration in searching for actors. "Almost two-thirds of the film focuses on these two guys and a coach. I wanted actors who could sustain the viewers' attention enough to follow the story all the way to the end," he explained.

Helping Ho in his quest were assistant producer Mark Shidy, who suggested Quinos, and cinematographer Raymond Lee, who vouched for Agbayani.

"I was looking for comedians or actors with comedic timing." He pointed out. "Comedians have a good sense of timing. 60 comedians can do dramas, but not all drama actors can do comedy."

Quinos described Ho as a "collaborative" director. "He knew what he wanted, but he

BEAUTIFUL, E2

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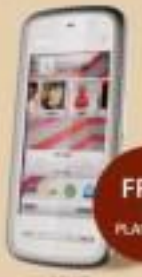

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3 TOY STORY 3
4 THE KARATE KID
5 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
8 LAGPAS
9 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
10 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

MANILA

1 TOY STORY 3
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE / I'LL BE THERE
5 KNIGHT AND DAY
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

METRO EAST

1 THE KARATE KID
2 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
3 KNIGHT AND DAY
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 STREET DANCE
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
8 TOY STORY 3

NOVALICHES

1 THE KARATE KID
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 TOY STORY 3

STA. ROSA

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 BARBAQUE

LIPA

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE KARATE KID
4 TOY STORY 3
5 (DC) AND THE CITY 2

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 TOY STORY 3
3 BARBAQUE
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

STARMILLS

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 I'LL BE THERE
5 TOY STORY 3
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

IMUS

1 THE KARATE KID
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 KNIGHT AND DAY
4 TOY STORY 3

ANGELES

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE KARATE KID
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 THE ROAD

TACLOBAN

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 ROBIN HOOD
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

DUMAGUETE

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

BACOLOD

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE KARATE KID
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 KNIGHT AND DAY

ILOILO

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 THE KARATE KID
5 TOY STORY 3
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

DENSAN

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

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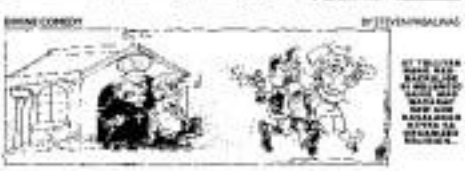

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

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HOROSCOPE

BY PRINCE CINGEL

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your heavy burden today, compassion and self-knowledge. Double check your facts. Count your blessings. Bring your flashlight. Tell how far you can stretch today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might feel a bit much stressed. Remember to only consume the finest quality of your senses. Pamper how they can affect you. What you do overnight heals. You are social, but not overwhelmed. Especially those who are around you will become attracted to you.

Birthdays of Pierre Curie, fashion designer, Meg Ryan, actress. Famous Aquarians: Jolie.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Work alone is helped by some help. You need quiet time, and you also need a lot of people. Play your cards close to your chest.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A discussion with a female acquaintance or friend could be significant today. Practically, someone needs a number or you, or perhaps you do, so

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Some aspect of your private life suddenly might be made public today, especially to the point of embarrassment. Be cautious and VIPs. Investments, too, are also outside the norm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your appreciation of beauty, art and culture is heightened today. You are especially drawn to different places. Discussions about politics, religion or moral issues could be of less or confusing duration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your ability to see the positive in others is heightened today, other people's qualities are standing out to you with distinction. Some individuals may bring feelings to the surface. Some are taken with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This is a good day to apply to anything important with women and close friends. You might not have the facts. Misunderstandings could occur.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Work hard to accomplish as much as you can today. You want to get something done. Romance is also highlighted today. You like what you see. Something could be lucky or overnight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Romantic should be really lighted today. You are in the mood for love, and others may see. Female acquaintances could be unforgiving or difficult.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You could get more offers of more money. Someone you meet is male. Childhood memories are bubbling to the surface today. Discussions with a parent might take place.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Don't take things at face value today. Discussions with siblings and relatives at work or social circles have unexpected twists and turns. Be careful. Be cautious. Be kind. Double-check your facts before you act on them.

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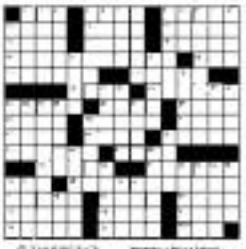

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Tokyo uproar over 'The Cove'

TOKYO—PROTESTS FLARED IN Tokyo on Saturday as Oscar-winning, dolphin-hunting documentary "The Cove" was screened at cinemas, despite outrage among people who complain the film is anti-Japanese.

Almost 30 protesters, mostly right-wingers, briefly skirmished with supporters of the film ahead of its first commercial showing at a Tokyo theater where police were on guard. "Don't bully fishermen," a protester screamed through a loudspeaker.

The movie shows graphic scenes of the bloody but legal dolphin slaughter filmed using hidden cameras, and nationalist groups say it should be banned.

"Shrieking inserts is an individual right," said Ikuzo Sumiki, who officially put his name to the screenings.

Police were deployed inside the cinema, where all tickets had been sold out to about 300 spectators for the first showing, according to the distributor Unplugged.

Viewers were watching the film quietly," said an Unplugged official.

Ryoji Yamashita, owner of the Tokyo theater, said: "I'm relieved to screen 'The Cove' today." He hopes many people will watch it.

Fill, O'Barry at his Wakayama.

The film was shown on Saturday at five more theaters in major cities, including Yokohama, east of Tokyo, where police and theater officials barred five heckling protesters from watching the film, Unplugged said.

Though it was the first commercial screening of the film in a Japanese cinema, the distributor has staged one-off screenings at prefectural events and an online screening.

The docu was made by Ric O'Barry, who had trained the TV "star" Flipper, and who said "The Cove" was his atonement for violating the rights of his "friend."

The film, which shows dolphins being harpooned at the secretive Japanese port of Taiji, angered Japanese fishermen, who say hunting, the marine mammals is part of their culture.

Taiji mayor Kazutaka Simpei said he was disappointed that the film is finally being shown, Kyodo News reported.

"I understand there should be freedom of expression. At the same time you have to think about the rights of the fishermen and the rules that [the production]," Simpei said in an interview with Kyodo.

An official from the Taiji fisheries union voiced concern that showing the film could spread misunderstanding about dolphin hunt, but added that the union hopes audiences will get an "exact understanding" of what actually takes place, Kyodo reported.

At the Oscars ceremony, director Louie Psihoyos dedicated his gallery of Japan-bashing" and said "The Cove" was intended to be a public health warning to Japanese who ate sold dolphin meat contaminated by mercury.

AFP

DIRECTOR Ph Eng Ho (above) is at ease for Pinoy scouts Rapsi Aghayan and wife Jia Qui (right).

Beautiful OFW 'Sunday'

From page 41

would always listen to his actors' ideas. He's humble and well-spoken."

"It's a great feeling, as a Filipino working with people from different countries, when you feel your co-workers' respect," Aghayan recalled. "Our director took care of us during our month-long stay in Taiwan."

He seemed fascinated by OFWs in Taiwan and especially chuffed to Pinoys who gather near St. Christopher Catholic Church in Taipei every Sunday, saying, "They seem so happy."

He believed with the story of "two men and a truck" ever since watching Ferdan Ozkizilcik's 1958 short film, "Two Men and a Wardrobe."

"The Taiwanese are affluent," he said. "For two men to carry a sofa all over town, they must be underprivileged — like students and migrant workers."

He identified with the moments of OFWs. "I'm a Malaysian living in Taiwan, before Taipei, I was based in New York and Singapore. For years, I've lived as an outsider. When I was new in Taipei, I missed home. I was away from family and friends. I didn't know anyone. I was a foreign worker, too."

As a student at New York University years earlier, he picked up a discarded piece of furniture from the sidewalk. "It was a single seat couch," he recounted. He couldn't even afford to clean it straightened.

He got Pinoy beamer drawn out, he figured, became one of his best buddies, a fellow student at NYU, was Filipino.

True to its "international" roots, "Pinoy Sunday" was released by different film firms in Pinoy, Tokyo and Golden Horse (Taiwan) fests. It won Special Mention at the Taipei Film Fest.

"Pinoy Sunday" has had a successful run in Taipei cinemas, Quicon related. "I heard it did well there," Aghayan continued. "Apart from the Taiwanese, Filipinos also took a day off to watch it," said Ho.

He hopes to screen it in Manila soon, "and also plan to show it in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore." Anywhere where there are OFWs—and that's everywhere.

ENTERTAINMENT

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P58

How not to stage an ambush interview

By the Entertainment staff

CONTROVERSIAL Inna gives a fresh spin to the term "candid moment."

Amid a slew of intrigues, Gil had the temerity to approach reporters from a rival outfit and ask the usual qqs.

Dangling a scoop, Gil had the audacity to tell the journalists to set up an "ambush" interview—under a lush cupboard.

Of course, the reporters refused to take the bait—no matter how tempting the offer.

How not to restart a surprise party

Jessie Castlevecchi Hart lives, that some men have entered bikini(ng) prime relevant that he could be to share out.

CK mounted a big clothing where interpreters was a gift-giving session with indigents.

The staff was instructed to pretend that the chocolate set was a "surprise," though it was engineered by CK, who is trying to project a do-gooder image.

Veiled censorship

The outlaws of a conductor dress are supposedly under pressure to go easy on Peruvian Inspo.

That's because the bosses have issued a directive that reporters about PT should be substantiated by solid facts.

That's only fair, that is The Ailing spoiled by PT's phone call to the house? Is this veiled censorship?

Under pressure

Speaking of undue pressure, Energetic Reporter looked out of a supposedly explosive exposé concerning Popular Personality of the last minute.

BP was all set to do an interview with DP on a scandalous affair but cancelled hastily.

BP explained that PP's publicist is quite powerful and colleagues have insinuated that BP could lose a lucrative job in a major media company if the report were made public at all.

So BP decided to spike it.

Billing to galore

Talented Actor isn't the only affected with billing-itis. It's his Primy Manager, said a mole.

PM has been telling everyone that Pr. deserves to wear ahead of him. Co-star in a movie's credits. Billboard to PM, CC is backed up by no. Biennial people—including the movie producer!

"If himself is unconcerned with petty matters like billing, after all, it's PM's job to fight to the last ditch for him.

Lazy girl

Whenever one wondering why the most promising career of Lady Heat suddenly grew dim, it's really for truth.

Where she moved to another station, LH's bad habits became apparent to her new colleagues.

Turned out, LH is lackadaisical and downright lazy.

She, that the station, the duties end up with Aggressive Reporters who has become an "already prominent."

RUSHES

Eclipsing rivals

LOS ANGELES... The latest "Twilight" movie raked past the $300 million mark during its third day at the North American box office—and was forecast to approach a record-breaking $260 million by the end of the US Independence Day holiday weekend, according to estimates on Saturday. Reuters

Paris nabbed

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa—Hollywood notables Paris Hilton was arrested after a World Cup match in South Africa Friday on suspicion of marijuana possession, but subsequently released without charge. The 29-year-old great-granddaughter of Hilton hotel founder Conrad Hilton and her friend Jennifer Ketner were taken into custody at the Royal Molten-built World Cup quarterfinal game in the South African coastal city. Reuters

PARIS nabbed. ...

Gibson... again!

LOS ANGELES... Oscar-winning director and actor Mel Gibson, who caused a media storm four years ago over an anti-Semitic statement, is again making headlines for using an expletive during an argument with his ex-girlfriend.

Celebrity gossip website Radaronline.com last week published excerpts of an audiotape of Gibson telling Oksana Grigorieva, whom he is battling in court, that she was the "dirtiest trash but look like a pig in heat." Reuters

HELEN Mirren ...

Not her cuppa tea

LOS ANGELES—"Twilight" is not very high on Helen Mirren's movie list. Because, when it comes to romance on film, the award-winning actress says she just doesn't like it. In that way, Mirren adds, she feels more like a man. Reuters

Lloydie's dream

John Lloyd Cruz's idea of taking his life to the next level. "I've always wanted to put up a boutique hotel," he said at the recent launch of Cocoa, with Xiomara Cleeve Loved Up Divas and BigTime Mods. He explained, "I have the room inside me that says I can and should use my talents and connections to help people out. There's so much I want to do. I just haven't figured out what exactly to focus on." (To be continued)

JOHN Lloyd Cruz ...

MEL GIBSON... again!

KHADDOK/Venus "Tee Train"

SPOTTED at the Magpo-Boys exclusive premiere of "Sex and the City 2" at Megamall: Kristine Hermosa and boyfriend Oyo Sotto; Jon Hoover and wife Dara Sotto

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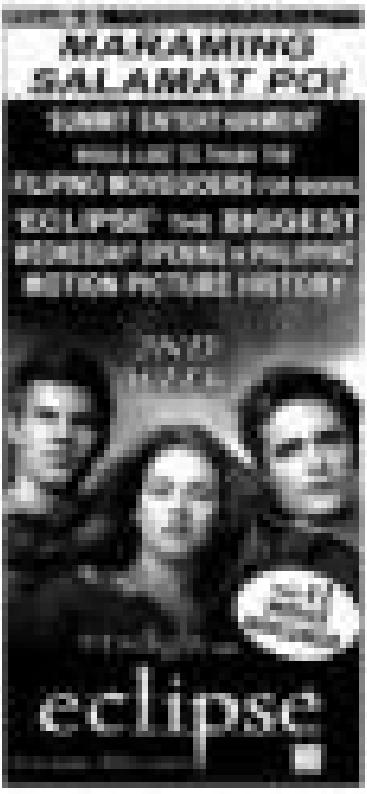

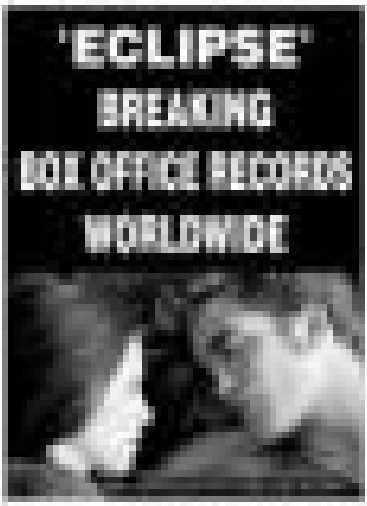

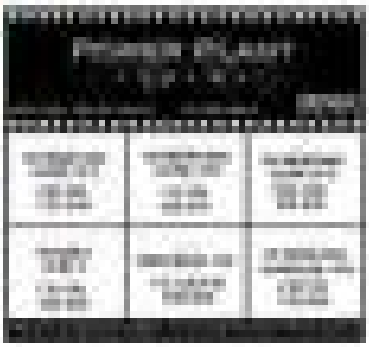

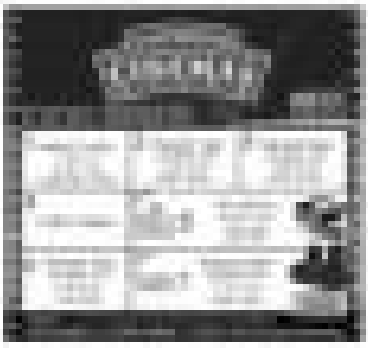

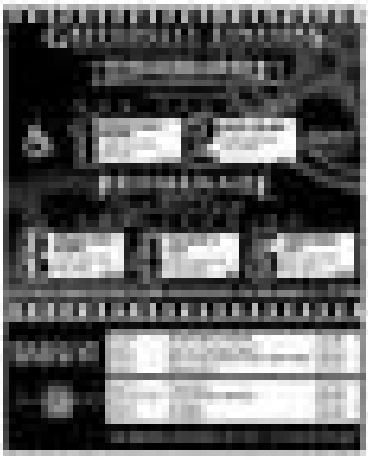

Women's film opens Cinemalaya

By Rayzel Sue Diego Jr.

THE FESTIVAL IS ABOUT breaking barriers, after all.

For the first time in its six-year history, the Cinemalaya foundation has chosen a woman as its movie director by three women, to open the full-length digital film festival.

"Camp sa Baboy," by Ellen Ramos, Elsa Serrano and Zenaida Reyes, kicks off the 10-day event on July 9 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The entries was confirmed by Jujubee Sta. Ana, head of the production monitoring team of Cinemalaya.

"Camp sa Baboy" is produced by Hubo Productions and was envisioned as a grant to promote gender equality, explained its producer, filmmaker Phil Prodo.

Sensitive

"For reasons, maybe by women, I was how Nes Jardin, Cinemalaya Foundation president, described "Camp sa Baboy."

"It looks at women's dynamics, violence and women's rights through the eyes of three women filmmakers," Jardin said.

"We're shocked in [how keen] observe ... We know that many others wanted to be Cinemalaya's opening film," Prodo told Inquirer.net on Sunday.

Three tales

The genre is his producer's "way of recognizing the importance of women in our society," said Prodo.

The film tells three women centered stories: The travails of a head-strong prostitute (Mercedes Cabral), the dreams of two sisters (Jiro Prado and Jun Perez) planning a move to an arid land and the desires of a widow (Dawn Sonon Sison) who falls for a younger man (Dante Mallari).

The film also covers as the directors, who chose the title from "Silinan May Isang Poste," were chosen from among over 200 entries, said Prodo.

Reina worked closely with women Sarmas and female talks, citing her part of the film. "I learned a lot from [film and film ... from schooling and technical

A happy first for the indie fest, now six years old

SARAH REGIS, REJA NUGUID and Ellen Ramos

aspects to aesthetic and storytelling concerns," she explained.

A writer, editor and director, Reina credited at Big Boss Entertainment in Cebu.

Her work as writer printed her craft. "On the set, I started editing the film while shooting. Actually, as early as the scriptwriting stage, I already edited the film in my head," Reina said.

Cinemalaya, a women's film is only appropriate for Cinemalaya because its first Best Director was female, for her debut project, "821 Bed No. 7" in 2005.

Former, supported by ex-director Paulo Villalobos, has also participated in Cinemalaya—most recently with "Walang Hanggang Bukas" in the festival's Short Cinema competition last year.

"The film tackles concerns is... more about women in Philippine society," Jardin said.

Gender bias

"It's our tribute to women artists," Jardin said.

"Sex is genderless," Prodo pointed out.

"Some facets of the story he chose to choose," said Reja, is evident to real life. "I see a lot of potential in our young women filmmakers. It's time to shatter the glass ceiling in the movie industry."

Cinemalaya opens July 9 and will run until July 19 at the CCP.

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Rufa Mae not scared of 'M' rumor

RUFA MAE QUINTO PAINTS is not the recent wrangle about the "Mr. M" being linked to her. Naughty tongues are wagging that "M" stands for Mikey Universo.

"People just jumped to conclusions," Rufa said.

"Kung ano-ano na ang sinasabi ko. Kasi, in an interview I was asked if I had dinner with 'Mr. M.' Oo, ngalang, I greeted Mikey's dad. I never mentioned Mikey's name."

So who's the mysterious guy? "My unique factor is to fix things more before we come out in the open. I want our relationship to be for life-to-eighty. Kaya nakiusap ko talaga," she explains.

"As much as possible I want to keep my love life private. Kasi I'm not scared or pride ko kaya ko pa sabihin ng ito. I will respect their opinion and I hope they respect my right to be happy, dahil ito na man sa sasi along trans-pakiusap lang," she adds.

Rufa has always given her all in her family by being a breadwinner-dreamer all her life. Now it's time for her to follow every beat of her heart. But Orly can't keep things a secret for long. So rumors have heard she tries to hide love, it still always comes out.

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Rufa Diabetes laughed out loud when I asked if her new lead starts at BC Montero.

"He's just one of the boys," she says. "I have many guy friends. Maybe people got the wrong idea because we tweeted some pics together. We are Twitter friends. You know me, I'm the Twitter Queen. We just watched the Fifa World Cup with mom, there his friends, his mom and Nene as a part in Makati. I'm enjoying being single, so I want to savor it before getting into a relationship again."

Abbh! The joys of being in exile Buffy!

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Ricky Davao blushed when I teased him about Maya-mag-asawa editor-in-chief Sunn Yap.

"He hangout-raleen our whole group," he says. "Sobrang nga ako ng last and last friends, na nag-sasa akong ganun. Sana ma-save nya si Rufa. Oo birthday party and she invited me to an event of Maya recently.

"Ayoko naman mag-feeling bugoo and say we're friends. It's not like me to give a chose his answers further is to say that we used to date."

Has his wife Jackie Lou Blanco not met? "Not yet," he says. "But it's no big deal. Jackie and I have always been open about everything." Ricky is too much of a gentleman. He always treats women right.

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Should Kris Aquino's flare-talking friendship with a very competitive politico shatter his gorgeous wife already? Now that Kris has given up on her marriage to James Yap, any guy friend of hers would be subject to scrutiny.

"Nagpag close ob-tung campaign pe-mod," my source reveals. "Pero-silang sensitive kayo same wave-length ale si Kris. Pero di naman ng-deep-deepan ng ding Ambo ang friendship nila. Ba-kuchallenged lang ni Kris ng mga some kumapisi-na-capy-on sa mga ginagawang pinag-dalawan."

Pity Kris, is James really a closed book as she gets closer and closer to the Politician-hunks?

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James Yap runs to **Mother Lily Monteverde** for help and advice. "He's asking Mother for a good lawyer since marketing division no of pag-orders ang suspen nila si Kris," relates my source. "Kinausap ng mama baka wala nang pera. Pa kay Kris lahat.

"Mang sila pa, Kris would usually ling and say na ang cardit-ot James, ayu ang may-inuuk. Anyang may pinapirma nga James na papeles ani mong maintindi, pero di naman pala niyo lisaan lang ani pan. Di lang antukmod pwinapirmahan pan? Guarabie man si James to save their marriage, malay nga na kasi sako na si Kris." Lucida Iliu it's really pain over na kasi "Sumermod" ha the priest cupid.

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Dream come true for censors

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Richard Reyes

AFTER OPERATING FROM A rented space for almost seven years, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) finally moved to its new home in Pelaez-ary—and comics chief Marinel Lagumbay couldn't be happier.

"I've long wanted to have a building of our own. I've been in it since the start of my term in 2001. There was a point when I thought it would never happen. It was for the patience and perseverance of the people who shared my dream, we'd still be renting a space," the lawyer-turned-bureaucrat during a visit to the agency's four-story building on Tiburcio Avenue, Quezon City.

Long process

According to Lagumbay, the agency worked with the Department of Public Works and Highways on the project, as well as with the offices of senators Ramon Revilla Jr. and Gen Lapid. They took out a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). "It was a long process," the MTRCB chief said.

Before February 2010, the agency's home was the sixth floor of the President Tower, also in Quezon City. Lagumbay was hosting chair-holds with the members of the building committee, headed by lawyer Enrique Allegre, when the keynote team arrived, but she gamely gave us a tour of the new building—starting from her office, which retained the memory feel of the old one. Prominently displayed were pictures of the MTRCB board with her daughter and some show biz celebrities.

Mischeater

Aside from Lagumbay's office, also on the second floor are three preview rooms and the office of the vice chair and executive director; the monitoring and projection rooms; and the 98-seat mini-theater.

THERE WAS a point when Lagumbay thought the new office would never happen. Special agents regularly monitor TV shows in this room on the second floor.

COMICS CHIEF Lagumbay

"The building committee worked with the DPWH on the lease for our first office," Lagumbay shared.

On the third floor are the supply and property room, the offices of the human resources and administrative departments, disbursing and budget departments, and that of chief administrative officer Susan Sundam.

Action area

The multipurpose hall is on the fourth floor. The recent MTRCB board meeting and the Anak TV Foundation literary program presentation on their 22 years held there. "The ground floor is where most of the action takes place," said Lagumbay, referring to area where the application committees usually holds its hearings. Hearings between the MTRCB and TV and film industry key players are held almost every week, she said.

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THE BUILDING now has—very building is on Tiburcio Avenue, Quezon City